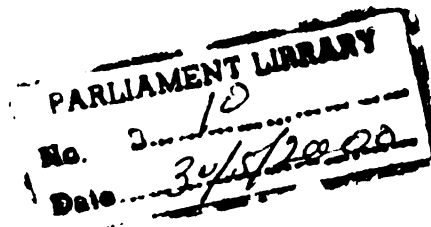


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Twelfth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. VII contains Nos. 11 to 18)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 18, 1998/Agrahayana 27, 1920 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at three minutes past
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Revival of Sick Textile Mills

*281. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the closure of textile mills during the last few years owing to sickness;

(b) if so, the number of textile mills closed from April, 1996 to May, 1998, year-wise and State-wise, particularly in Maharashtra;

(c) whether the cotton is abundantly available in India for the production of cloth and also there is no scarcity of labour-force;

(d) if so, the reasons for constant closure of textile mills; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive such mills in the country?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) As per available information there is adequate availability of cotton and of labour for production of cloth.

(d) Closure of textile mills can be attributed to many factors including obsolete technology, increase in cost of inputs, difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions etc.

(e) Government has established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to tackle problems of sickness. Government has also set-up an Expert Committee to have a fresh look at the existing Textile Policy. One of the terms of references of the said Committee is to review the measures taken so far for tackling sickness in the textile industry. The Govt. is also finalising the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The no. of closed cotton/man-made fibre textile mills closed from 1.4.96 to 31.5.98, year-wise and State-wise is given below:—

State	1.4.96 to 31.3.97	1.4.97 to 31.5.98	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4	5	9
Assam	—	1	1
Gujarat	14	5	19
Haryana	3	1	4
Karnataka	—	2	2

1	2	3	4
Kerala	—	1	1
Maharashtra	5	4	9
Orissa	—	2	2
Punjab	1	1	2
Rajasthan	2	3	5
Tamilnadu	6	21	27
U.P.	2	4	6
W. Bengal	2	4	6
Delhi	3	—	3
Total	42	54	96

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Ahmad Nagar):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister has not given an appropriate reply because he has stated the reasons include...

[English]

Difficulties in getting timely and adequate credit, mismanagement, recessionary conditions.

[Translation]

Mismanagement is one of the factors attributed for closure of mills but we haven't heard or read anywhere about any owner being punished for mismanagement. The hon. Minister has himself stated in reply to a question no. 359 on 10th of July.

[English]

There is no recession in the textile industry during the last five years.

[Translation]

He had stated earlier that there is no recession but now acknowledges that the mills are closed due to recession. Why the mills are closed if there is no recession? It is mentioned in the Annual Report that 220 mills are declared closed and cases related to 330 mills have been referred to B.I.F.R. out of which there is no scope of revival of 170 mills. I would like to know whether any new steps are being initiated to revive these closed mills as we all are aware of those old measures. He has attributed new reasons and has also mentioned that the

[English]

Government is also finalising the technological upgradation Fund Scheme.

[*Translation*]

A number of workers have been rendered jobless and their survival is at stake. I want to know from the hon. Minister through you the new steps that are being initiated so as to revive the closed units.

MR. SPEAKER: Kindly ask the question.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: I am asking question only. I would like to know when the mills are closing and more are likely to be replaced by powerlooms, in such a situation are you trying to revive these closed mills or just promoting the powerlooms? Will anybody be punished for mismanagement and what is the factual position about recession? Is there actually any recession or not?

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is recession in the textile industry. I have never said that there is no recession. The Government is doing its best to take the industry out of this recession. So far mismanagement is concerned they have not committed any crime. But adherence to time schedule and co-ordination needed to run the mills is lacking. Therefore, I admit that there is mismanagement.

Another issue that has been raised is regarding closed mills and the steps being taken by the Government to revive them? Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as per the figures available with me 1505 spinning mills and 279 composite mills have been closed. In all 1784 mills have been closed. I have mentioned this figure in my reply. The production of cloth in our country is still increasing despite the closure of spinning or composite units. The total production of cloth is more than that of production in 1991-92 in the entire sector. The production in cotton textile is 1678.62 million sq. metre. The production in de-centralize power loom sector in 1992-93 was 13642 million sq. metre whereas in 1997-98 the production is 20951 million sq. metre. Likewise the number of spindles is also increasing. Its total number in 1991-92 was 27.82 million which increased to 33.50 million in 1996-97. The number of powerlooms and spindles is also increasing in de-centralized sectors.

SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL: In order to revive the mills and to reduce their sickness the Government of India and the concerned state Governments are contemplating to revive these mills by selling off the excess land belonging to these mills so that resources could be mobilised for upgradation of mills and the workers could be rehabilitated. So, I would like to know from the Minister the number of such mills that have

been granted permission to sell their land or has this matter been left with the concerned State Governments. I would like to know the number of textile mills revived in this manner, the amount received by them and the number of workers rehabilitated? The workers are in a pitiable condition. They are neither in a position to educate their children nor marry them off. I, therefore, suggest the land belonging to powerloom decentralized sector should be sold and fifty percent of the amount received should be given as loan to the workers so that they can manage their hearth and home and mills are also revived. Kindly also tell us the number of mills revived in this manner and the amount they received?

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as far as revival of N.T.C. is concerned the Government has formulated a number of strategies in the last twenty years but not implemented them properly. The Government is formulating a new strategy to revive those N.T.Cs mills which are viable, I hope that we will come with a new scheme in the House very soon. So far as to avoid closure of Mills be it textile mills or spinning mills, the Government have envisaged three-four schemes for it. One is Technology Upgradation Fund. Group of Ministers have approved Technology Upgradation Fund amounting to Rs. 25,000 crore and as per their decision after obtaining the approval of Cabinet it will be made operational from 1.4.99.

As regards the land, the Government have envisaged a scheme of Rs. 2005.72 crores under the Turn Around Strategy formulated in 1995. The money was to be raised by selling the land of closed mills. But we have not got even a single penny. We had sought the permission of the State Government. I myself went there but till date permission has not been granted to us. We had formulated the revival plan on the basis of the amount to be accrued by selling the land only. Now we are going to make new strategy in consultation with financial agencies.

[*English*]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): In West Bengal, out of 12 NTC mills, the employees of 10 mills are getting idle wages. Due to non-availability of the raw material and the working capital, there is no production. This is causing huge loss to the exchequer. Paying idle wages without undertaking production will not help. In his answer, the hon. Minister has mentioned that there is adequate availability of raw material but in West Bengal ten mills are not supplied with adequate raw material. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will ensure adequate supply of raw material to these mills so that they run and in turn can be made viable.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as the supply of raw material to NTC mills is concerned, as the Members are aware, half of the NTC mills are now closed or partially closed. So far as running mills are concerned, there is no problem with regard to the supply of either cotton or the working capital.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even if we do not take the issue of mismanagement into consideration yet I would like to apprise that the former Minister of Textiles Shri Venkatswami Ji had himself admitted that these mills are running in loss due to corruption. The hon'ble Minister has said that

[English]

as per available information, there is adequate availability of Cotton.

[Translation]

If it is so then why so many N.T.C. mills are on the verge of closure in Mumbai. Shri Hannan Mollah has said that if you provide raw material, there would be better production. The hon. Minister has also mentioned production of cloth has gone up but this is not correct. Even today production of cloth could be augmented if they are provided raw material, working capital and cotton. You owe crores of rupees to the Government of Maharashtra for supply of cotton. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that are you going to make the payment or not so that the mills could be revived.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given correct figures of cloth production and these figures are authentic. So far as the matter of cotton supply is concerned, we are supplying cotton to N.T.C. Mills. But I would like to inform the House that it is not a matter of supplying of cotton there are many mills which are using obsolete machinery. It is also a reason that we do not get the production as per the targets fixed in this regard. Therefore, some mills are running in loss. There is not only one reason. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rawale, let him complete first. You are unnecessarily obstructing the Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: He is not giving the right answer....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far as the workers are concerned the Government had made efforts to run the mills in every possible manner.

[English]

SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL (Erandol): Sir, I have been hearing for the last three years that all these mills have been revived. But so far no fruitful results are coming up. Now, I would like to ask a very specific question from the hon. Minister. The production of cloth is not decreasing. It has increased from 14 million metres to 20 million metres. Therefore, I would like to ask whether the Minister is thinking of reviving these mills in a way that they can be privatised. If the private parties are coming up with proposals, does the Minister is interested or ready to private these mills?

Is there any proposal from some private parties to purchase these mills? If so, whether the Minister is thinking of having an outright sale of these mills.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, so far as the revival of NTC mills is concerned, the Government is thinking to revive some of the NTC mills.

So far as the private parties are concerned, the Government will keep this suggestion in mind.

SHRI C. GOPAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is seen from the statement of the Minister that 27 mills have been closed in Tamil Nadu. The hon. Minister has also stated that the Government has established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction to tackle the problem of sickness. The Government has also set up an expert group to look into the existing textile policy. Sir, earlier the number of sick mills was only 7 but this year 20 mills have become sick. So, a total number of 27 mills are sick in Tamil Nadu.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason for this sickness. I also want to know the reason as to why this number is so high.

MR. SPEAKER: Your answer should not be sick!

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I have already told the hon. Members the reasons for sickness. They include obsolete machinery, mismanagement of the mills and non-availability of enough finance or working capital.

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever be the statistics available with the hon. Minister, it is a fact that still sufficient quantity of cotton is not available. I had myself written to the hon. Minister some time back and he had promised me to look into that. In my own constituency, Trichur, one Sri Lakshmi Mill is not functioning fully due to shortage of cotton. These units

have surplus land with them but they do not have the working capital. why does the Government not allow them to sell their surplus land and get the working capital? If the units are allowed to sell their surplus land, they will have the working capital. The Government may consider this proposal.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The production of yarn has been increasing. In 1991, the production of cotton yarn was 1,569 million kilograms, while in 1997-98, the production of cotton is 4,213 million kilograms. The availability of cotton is not a problem.

The hon. Member has raised another point about selling of land of the closed mills. The Government is thinking on this point and I will say that as early as possible, the Government is going to finalise the plan.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is not satisfactory. I have been in the House for the last two years and nine months. Even Shri Jalappa under the U.F. Government and the present Minister have given the same answer. I would request the hon. Minister through you to clinch the issue by calling the leaders of all the political parties by having a discussion on this issue elaborately and decide on aspects of raw materials, lack of any technology in the old mills etc.

In Andhra Pradesh, we have closed nine mills in the last two years. In my view, the Minister should call a meeting of the leaders of all the parties and discuss elaborately on these aspects. Even some Members have suggested that private people are also coming forward to purchase these mills. We should allow that. We are all going in for liberalisation policy and we are inviting even foreign investment. What is wrong in it? I would like to know whether the Government is willing to call all the floor leaders to clinch this issue.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I have no objection in that. The existing Government is not responsible for the failure of the various strategies of the previous Government. They occurred because of the failure of the previous Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say with reference to the answer given by the hon. Minister about cotton mills that the production is continuously decreasing for the last three years. 112 years old historical M.S.K. Mill of Gulbarga has been closed. Although the property of Mill amounts to Rs. three hundred crores, even then it is in a dire state. The electric supply has been disconnected. There is no electricity in

the homes of thousand of workers of the mill. The Government should revive the mill immediately if it wants to do so. Lakhs of families are facing hardships for the last three years, but the Government has not taken any decision. It would have dire consequences. I would like that the hon. Minister should give a clear answer that when the Government would take a decision in this regard?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right. He met me yesterday. But I want to say that where there are N.T.C. Mills, be they cotton mills or Jute mills, the workers of all these mills have taken unauthorised electricity connections in their homes. Legally it is not right, but they are our workers so all this is going on. However I will consider the views expressed by the hon. Member in this regard.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Hon. Minister, tell what decision you will take about revival? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether my best friend, Shri Kashiram Rana, the hon. Minister for Textiles, is aware of the fact that one Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister requesting him to stop export of cotton, increase funds and working capital, take steps towards modernisation, and rehabilitate the sick mills. I want to know the reaction of the hon. Minister for Textiles in this regard.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The letter sent by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been received.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, he has received the letter. But I want to know his reaction on that letter.

MR. SPEAKER: You have only asked whether he has received that letter or not.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government is considering the matter.

Development of Tourism In North Eastern Area

*283. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to restrictions, the free flow of tourists in the North East region has hampered the tourism industry of the region;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to do away with the inner line permit system and the Restricted Area permit system from the region;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which these permit systems are likely to be completely lifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) The application of Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958 in Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur and the Inner Line Permit under the Bengal East Frontier Regulation of 1873 in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Mizoram have hampered the growth of the Tourism industry in these North Eastern States to some extent.

(c) to (e) Restricted Area permit system does not apply to any of the North Eastern States. The relaxation of the Protected Area Permit System in the States of Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram is a continuing process. In June/July, 1998 further relaxation in the protected Area Permit regime in the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur have been made to open up selected tourist circuits/routes in these States for the promotion of tourism. The situation is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the interest of the tourism industry as well as the security and social requirements.

The Inner Line Permit system is operated by the concerned State Governments who are not in favour of doing away with this system.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Th. Chaoba Singh, you can speak in Manipuri language. Interpretation is there.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: I will ask the supplementary in Manipuri language.

*Sir, today, tourism industry has been considered as one of the biggest industries in the world. Sir, even after fifty years of Independence, there is no big industry in Manipur. Manipur situated in North-East of India is having ample scope for developing tourism industry because it is full natural beauties. Therefore, the Government should pay proper attention for the development of tourism in the region. Keeping in view this very fact, I would like to

know from the hon. Minister as to what are the projects so far taken up for the development of tourism industry in Manipur?*

Now, I will put my further supplementaries in English.

Will the hon. Minister for Tourism further state whether the Inner Line Permit and the Restricted Area Permit system for visitors from India and abroad, which is now in force, can be removed totally from the North-East to improve the tourism industry? Sir, I have another question to ask.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not read. You may put only one supplementary now. Is the Minister also replying in Manipuri language?

SHRI OMAK APANG: Sir, my answer would be in English.

Some steps have been taken for development of tourism in the North-Eastern region. We have got an Inter-Ministerial Committee. Yesterday, with the initiative of the Minister for Civil Aviation, we had called on all the Members of Parliament from the North-Eastern region. The main problem in the North-Eastern region is the infrastructure. The Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Civil Aviation have given us full support.

As far as the RAP is concerned, it is not applicable for the North-Eastern region. The Inner Line Permit is applicable to Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Nagaland. The Protected Area permit is applicable for Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. We have got the order from the Ministry of Home Affairs in this regard. The route, specially for Manipur, is given here. Sir, for this, he can straightway apply from the Overseas Office to the Chief Secretary of the Manipur Government. He may get a report on that from there.

We have planned for development of the North-Eastern region. We have found that Loktak Lake can be developed as a special tourism area. We have had a Conference with BIMSTHAL, namely, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand to open up the Asian Highway. So, I think, with that, Morey will also be in the picture and Manipur can come up in the tourism circle.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Further, what steps have been taken by the Tourism Ministry to establish tourism infrastructure to improve tourism in the North-East and in Manipur in particular with reference to the specific project? I want to know about that.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Manipuri.

SHRI OMAK APANG: Well, what we have planned is that we are trying to shift our Regional Office from Calcutta—especially for the North-Eastern Region - to Guwahati which is a suggestion from the Member of Parliament also. Especially in respect of Manipur, we face certain problems like when people travel by road and when they have to touch Dimapur. We have asked the Home Ministry and the Government of Nagaland to give a temporary inner-land permit for people who will be travelling by road to Imphal. We have indicated the major projects in the North-East. I have mentioned about them. They are about Chumukhdima in Nagaland and then development of tourism facility at Loktak Lake, Manipur. This is one of the biggest fresh water lakes in the whole country. Development of Menchuka and then eco-tourism resort at Majuli in Assam is planned.

About prioritisation for the North-Eastern Region, for the year 1998, and then if you go back to 1997-98, you will find that for Manipur, the allocation was Rs. 186.11 crore and this year, we have raised it to Rs. 220 crore.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, through you, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister. As a whole, the tourism sector is failing in the country. On the one side, there is Jammu & Kashmir problem and on the other side there is problem in the North-Eastern Region. The emerging and growing influence of the extremist forces in the country is causing hardships to the Indian as well as the foreign tourists as a whole and they are not willing to visit the following places. But Darjeeling is a place, which is known as the Queen of the Hills, which is connected with the North-Eastern Region. But the unfortunate part is that in different headquarters of the North-Eastern Region, there are airports. I want to know whether the Government is planning to establish or is there any proposal under the consideration of the Civil Aviation Ministry to establish any airport in Darjeeling itself by which a connection can be built up. I would also like to know whether Darjeeling and the North-Eastern Region areas are inducted into the world tourist map by which more foreign tourists can come. So, I want to know about Darjeeling and the areas of North-Eastern Region.

MR. SPEAKER: This is about Darjeeling.

SHRI OMAK APANG: Sir, this is not connected with my question. But I would like to answer.

In respect of Jammu & Kashmir, this year, we have a very good response for pilgrimage tourism. But we are going very slow with promotion of tourism there. We will not like to send our tourists to a place where there is disturbance. It needs a certain clearance for such areas. The Protected Area Permit for certain areas is necessary.

When it comes to Darjeeling, this year, with the initiative from the Ministry of Tourism and the Government of West Bengal as well as the Autonomous Hill Council Darjeeling, and the Government of Sikkim they have initiated a festival called "Visit Himalayas 2000". Tourists can see the Darjeeling Hills, Sikkim and Siliguri. They have initiated a move for Bagdogra. Yesterday, a question was put to the Civil Aviation Minister about establishment of an airport at Sikkim. So, a survey team will be sent and the easy accessibility to Bagdogra airport will be established because there is some inconvenience to the public. It takes around 25 to 30 minutes to get into the Airport. We are trying to promote that area for a "Visit India Year 2000" programme. We are trying to promote this as a centre for conferences. We had a meeting yesterday. A delegation came from West Bengal, Darjeeling and Sikkim...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, I wanted to know whether any proposal for the establishment of an airport at Darjeeling is under consideration or not...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your supplementary is not related to the main question. Please take your seat. Though it is not related to the main question, then also, the Minister has given some reply.

[*Translation*]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful for providing me an opportunity to ask a question on tourism. Our country lag much behind in the area of tourism. Of course, tourism has been one of the reasons for it but wrong policies of the previous Governments are also responsible for the same. Tourism provides a little share to our economy.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Bizay Sonkar Shastri, please understand that this question is relating to development of tourism in North-Eastern States.

[*Translation*]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. Three pyramids of Egypt are a major source of earning for tourism there. Similarly, there are some hills in Switzerland which are a major tourist attraction. In the same way there are hills of Uttar Pradesh in our country. The economy of this region is

completely dependent on tourism. There are resources in our country from tourism point of view, but tourism is not in a very healthy state in our country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shastri, I will disallow your supplementary. Please put a brief question.

[Translation]

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: We have ample resources and we can promote tourism in a way so as to help our economy to the maximum extent. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is being done by the Govt. to promote tourism. This is one part of my question.

Secondly, I would like to know whether the development of tourism does include other forms of tourism viz. common tourism, tourism connected with religious places, health academic etc. I would like to know whether the Govt. is thinking in this direction?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, will you reply?

SHRI OMAK APANG: Sir, again this is not connected with my question. Anyhow I would like to answer...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If it is not connected to the main question and even though you are going to reply, the Chair does not permit you, Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

Strike by Officials of I.T. , Central Excise and Customs

*284. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of Income Tax, Central Excise and Customs went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the demand raised by them;

(c) whether the Government are considering their demands;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the loss incurred by the Government due to the strike?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Sir, Groups 'B' and 'C' officers of the Income Tax, Central Excise and Customs were on strike from 10th November, 1998 to 12th November, 1998.

(b) The employees were demanding higher pay scales and improvement in some of the service conditions.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No final decision has been arrived at.

(e) Nil.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Group "B" and Group "C" officers of the Income Tax, Central Excise and Customs were on three day strike and yet the Government suffered no loss, as per the reply given in the part (c) by hon. Minister it somehow sounds incredible. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to how it is possible that there was no loss to the Government even after all the officers of the said revenue earning departments were on three day strike. The news papers reports say that railway tickets of Thailand, Singapore were selling in black; people were in a hurry to bring items to India quickly without paying income tax, Central Excise tax and customs duties. However, the hon. Minister is saying that the Govt. of India did not incur any loss during these three days of strike. How is it possible? I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much loss was suffered by the Govt. of India in terms of income tax, central excise and customs duties due to the strike of officers belonging to these departments.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have stated in my reply that only Group "B" and "C" officers of those departments were on three days strike, but we had made alternative arrangements. Officers of other groups were deputed on harbours and airports. They carried on work during those three days. How can I give any statement about loss merely on the basis of the fact that some news-papers have published reports about such loss?

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to what are the demands of the officers of

those departments and what is the response of the Govt. towards these demands. The hon. Minister says that he has not come to any definite and final conclusion. They had also planned a strike during July in connection with their demands but at that time the hon. Minister had assured them that final decision would be taken regarding their demands. I would like to know the time by when a final decision would be taken by the Govt. so that there is no strike in future.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to convey to the hon. Member that we are also concerned and we do not want that our employees and officers go on strike unnecessarily. That is why when I came to know about holding a strike in July, I invited those groups of employees and talked to them and subsequently they decided not to go on strike. Their demands are related to their pay. There were several anomalies following the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission Report. In that very connection several groups of officers and employees are coming forward with their demands. I had constituted a high level Committee to consider their demands. That Committee has also submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee are under the consideration of the Govt. and on date I am not in a position to divulge out any thing simply because a final decision is taken by the Govt. only after going through such details as to how many departments are concerned with it and what would be the impact of that decision on other groups of employees. At the moment I am not in a position to set any deadline.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, the hon. Finance Minister was good enough to inform us that a High-Powered Committee was constituted to look into their grievances and that Committee had already submitted its recommendations. Then, why should there be any further delay or difficulty in considering the recommendations of the High-Powered Committee? It is reasonable to assume that the High-Powered Committee would have taken the possible cascading effect on other officers into consideration before making those recommendations.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The High-Powered Committee, which I had constituted, comprised of the Chairmen of the two Boards, and Members in-charge of Personnel in these Boards. This was the High-Powered Committee which had given its recommendations. The matter was there. After being considered in the Department of Revenue, they had made some suggestions. After my approval, it was referred to the Department of Expenditure. It is in the Department of

Expenditure that the matter is under examination. Sir, all of us are aware of this. I am sure, the hon. Member, who has been a part of the Government at one time, is fully aware of this. They are the ones who had taken the decision with regard to the implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations. The whole system of Government of India is such that any decision taken in respect of anyone category has its impact on various other categories. Since it was a Committee of two Boards, they would look at it from their point of view, as they have done. It is now for the Department of Expenditure, the Department of Personnel, and the Government as a whole to take a holistic view, see how much we can accommodate, and how much we cannot accommodate.

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: The hon. Minister just now informed the House that one of the grievances was regarding the working conditions of the officials of the Income-tax Department. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether it is a fact that one of the grievances is the victimised transfers done at the instance of the hon. Finance Minister himself where political questions come? For example, in the case of Shri Romesh Sharma, the Commissioner of Income-Tax was transferred on the orders of the hon. Finance Minister. I want to know whether the victimised transfers is one of the reasons why there is dissatisfaction among the officials.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: While denying whatever has been said in the nature of allegation, with all the force at my command, I will give the simple answer to this question is 'No'.

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, there are a number of anomalies and in order to take into account all these anomalies, and to the extent possible, to effect some corrective measures, the Government has established Anomalies Committee. Despite having this position, a number of employees in various departments of the Ministry of Finance are very much dissatisfied. Is there any time bound programme to, at least, inform those people that their matter has been examined by the Anomalies Committee and thereafter the decision will be taken before the next Budget?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, the hon. Member is quite right in saying that we have a system, a mechanism and whenever any demands are made in the light of the decisions taken about the implementation of the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission, the matter is referred to the Committee and the Committee examines the whole thing. Then, the Government takes a decision

in these matters. There is no time-limit because the demands arise from time to time. Since there is no time-limit for the demands to arise, it is difficult to put a time-limit on the solutions to these demands but once the solutions are arrived at, the decisions are conveyed to the interested parties.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to extend the date of SAMADHAN because there has been a shortage of time due to strike and festivals. If you extend the time beyond 31st December the Govt. will get more tax...*(Interruptions)* Let the Finance Minister assure that he would consider this..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: What the hon. Member has said is very important and urgent..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: This is the demand of traders. This will benefit the Govt. It would be very good if the hon. Minister gives some assurance..*(Interruptions)*. The whole House is unanimous..*(Interruptions)*. Please get it done..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: It is a suggestion for action and I will certainly take note of the feelings of the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: If the date is extended, nobody will deposit any amount till 31st of the month.

[English]

Insurance Scheme for Sick SSIs

*285. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for the sick and unviable SSI units in the country, particularly in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Sick SSI units are declared unviable only after all possible efforts for their revival have failed. Therefore, question of launching an insurance scheme for revival of such unviable sick units does not arise. Further, commercial risks of industrial units turning sick or unprofitable are not considered as pure risks for insurance. In view of this, Government has no plan to launch any insurance scheme for revival of even potentially viable sick SSI units.

As regards revival of potentially viable sick units, Government has taken various measures for their revival. These include reduced rate of interest for rehabilitation, prompt viability studies/nursing programmes of identified sick units, setting up of cells at important regional centres and Head Offices of Banks to deal with sick industrial units and provision of expert staff, including technical personnel to look into technical aspects. State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) exist under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Industries) of the State Governments for revival of sick units.

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question came up before the House because of the inroads of the multinational companies which recently entered into this country due to the policy of globalisation. In last five years nearabout 2 lakhs units of SSI (Small Scale Industry) have been closed. Will the Minister of Industries confirm it that nearabout 2 lakh units of small scale industries have been closed in last five years? Will he also mention the number of workers got unemployed because of the closure of these industries and also the steps taken by the Government for their revival?

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: Hon'ble Member has very rightly said that the number of sick units of SSI till March, 1998, was 2,20,594, but in 1997 this number was a bit higher at 2,35,042. He is very much right in saying this also that workers are going through unemployment, but we are making efforts to help the revival of the sick units as much as possible.

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Hon'ble Minister has correctly stated it that the number of sick units is 2,35,000, but some more units are on the verge of closure because

of the entry of the multi-national companies and the relaxation they are granted. So, some concrete steps should be taken in this direction. It seems Government have yet not taken any decision on it. I want to know what steps will be taken by Government to promote the revival of sick units.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I am in a fix to reply this question as multinational companies are coming in the area of infrastructure and high technology, and they have not entered into the area in which SSI are operating. On the other hand multinational companies are helpful to small scale industry because of their vendor activities.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Speaker Sir, question was asked regarding the sickness of large number of units of SSI. I want to know the total number of sick units in the country as well as in Gujarat, Bihar and other states and also the number of workers got unemployed because of this closure?

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I repeat answer of the first part of your question and for other I see whether I have the relevant information or not. As I have replied till March, 1998 the total number of sick units of SSI was 2,20,594 and in March, 1997 it was 2,35,042. Now I take out the number of sick SSI units in Bihar. It is little bit problematic.

[English]

The total number of sick SSI units in Bihar is 22,782.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier the products which the SSI units were manufacturing were reserved only for them. Now, due to dereservation of products for SSI units, they are not able to compete. This is one reason for the SSI units becoming sick. Will the Government do something to see that such products, which were reserved for the SSI units, continue to remain with them?

[Translation]

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: Statement of the Prime Minister has already come in this regard denying any de-reservation at the moment.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, is it a fact that a large number of small-scale units have fallen sick because

of various reasons? One such reason is the delay in payments. We have passed a Bill in regard to the delayed payments. But in spite of that, it is not being implemented. The small-scale manufacturers suffer because of delays in payment of their bills.

May I know from the hon. Minister the measures that the Government propose to take in order to expedite the payment of bills to the entrepreneurs of small-scale units?

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: The hon. member has already included the reply to his question in his own question. He has said that the Government has already taken a number of measures to ensure that the delayed payments are not made to small-scale industries. It is being implemented.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know the number of SSI units have gone sick because of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir during last nine years. I also want to know whether Government is considering to scrap the toll tax as it is charged Rs. 18 per quintal for carrying goods or sending them away from the state keeping in view this situation that all industries operating in J&K take in raw material from different parts of the country and again supplying finished goods for sale in whole of the nation. I also want to know the reply of the Government in regard of the special package that has been asked by the Government of J&K for the revival of the small scale industries.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: Answer of first question is that 761 SSI units have fallen sick. Whereas it is the question of scrapping toll tax, this is related to other Ministries. And for this last question it would be very kind of him if he repeats it once more.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Jammu and Kashmir Government have asked for a package for the revival of small scale industries in the State. Whether Union Government is ready to endorse it?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no; I have called Shri Sudhakar Reddy.

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, it is understandable that insurance cannot be given for sick units. But a sick unit should have security after its revival. So, is there any possibility of giving an insurance cover by the Government to those units which are not sick and to those units which are revived after sickness?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: It is not a question of whether the Government is prepared or not. I tried to explain the mechanism of insurance. There are four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India which offer several insurance covers covering the industrial units against loss and damage to their property due to operation of insurance perils, such as, fire, explosion, earthquake, floods, etc., that is, natural calamities. However, no insurance cover is available at present to cover commercial risks of industrial units turning sick or unprofitable since any such contingencies are not considered as pure risks for insurance.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, most of the small-scale industries become sick because they are mainly ancillary industries which depend upon the big industries or the consumption of consumers. So, those industries, which have become sick, depend upon ancillary industries.

MR. SPEAKER: Unless you put a brief supplementary question, you will not get an answer.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Can the Government come up with a plan to give protection to the industries which are dependent on big industries?

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: It is the question of relationship of the smaller industries with the bigger industries. I think, this relationship should continue for the benefit of the small-scale industries themselves.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Opening of Insurance Sector for Infrastructural Sector

*282. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open up the insurance sector for financing infrastructural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the financing of infrastructural sector is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Bill to this effect has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 15.12.98.

(c) Financing can take place only after the passing of the Bill and the coming into business of new companies.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Accidents in Coal Mines

*286. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR BIJOY:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether adverse geo-mining conditions cause frequent accidents in coal mines;

(b) whether inadequate study of geo-engineering characteristics of coal measures authenticated by geologists is mainly responsible for these accidents;

(c) if so, whether the Government intends to conduct the intensive geological study of coal measures;

(d) if so, the time by which study is likely to be conducted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The design of the roof support system for strata control is based on adequate study of geo-engineering characteristics of coal measures strata of a mine. In spite of adequate study of the characteristics of coal measures rock, at times it is not possible to anticipate and guard against small faults, hidden slips and other minor geological disturbances.

(c) to (e) Does not arise in view of the above.

Development of Growth Centre

*287 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of some of the growth centres in the country, especially in Gujarat and Maharashtra is very dismal due to non-release of funds by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details of such industrial growth centres with their latest status and reasons for their non-completion so far; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to strengthen these growth centres in order to increase the pace of industrialisation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The implementation of the approved Growth Centres is the responsibility of the State Governments/their implementing agencies. Central assistance is released having regard to the physical and financial progress made by the States/their implementing agencies.

The Government monitors the implementation of the scheme on quarterly basis and releases central assistance in terms of the progress achieved.

In so far as the Growth Centres in the States of Gujarat & Maharashtra are concerned the details of the funds released by the Central Government, State Government, total expenditure and progress achieved so far are as under:—

Name of the State: Gujarat

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Growth Centre	Approved on	Central Release	State Release	Total Expenditure	Physical Progress
Gandhidham	4.6.92	100.00	400.00	16.00	-nil-
Palanpur	4.6.92	100.00	400.00	16.00	-nil-
Vagra	4.6.92	1000.00	500.00	4940.00	100 hectares land has been demarcated for development works. Plots developed: 353. Water supply scheme completed. Telephone Exchange building constructed.

Name of the State: Maharashtra

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the Growth Centre	Approved on	Central Release	State Release	Total Expenditure	Physical Progress
1	2	3	4	5	6
Akola	26.3.92	750.00	644.00	1360.01	Land acqd: 625 hectares. Plots developed: 189. Road constructed: 9.5. k.m.

	2	3	4	5	6
Chandrapur	26.3.92	400.00	494.00	1025.49	Land acqd: 630 hectares.
Dhule	26.3.92	200.00	128.00	329.00	Land acqd: 707 hectares.
Nanded	11.12.97	550.00	956.00	1030.46	Land acqd: 645 acres
Ratnagiri	26.3.92	440.00	224.00	488.82	Water supply scheme has been started.

Interest on Foreign Debt

*288. SHRI MAGANTI BABU:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has to pay to the World Bank \$478 million more than it received in the fiscal year 1998, ending June 30 by way of repayment and interest charges on bank loans and International Development Association credits;

(b) if so, whether this has been the trend for the last few years;

(c) if so, the details thereof indicating the excess amount paid than received during 1993 to 1998;

(d) whether the Government have decided not to take any more foreign loan till the debt trap situation comes under control; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to come out from the debt trap situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The net inflow (Gross disbursements—repayments—interest payments) from the World Bank during fiscal year 1998 (ending June 30, 1998) was US\$ (-) 495.808 million.

(b) and (c) The year-wise net inflow from 1993 to 1998 from World Bank is as under:

Fiscal Year (ending June 30)	Net inflow (US\$ million)
1993	194.608
1994	(-)2.236
1995	(-)118.169
1996	(-)719.097
1997	(-)1058.403
1998	(-)495.808

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Government is following a prudent strategy for managing country's total external debt. The ratios of external debt to GDP and debt service to current receipt have been declining.

Anti-Dumping Duty by EU

*289. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union (EU) have imposed anti-dumping duty on many Indian goods;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the impact of such steps on India's export; and
- (d) the steps being taken to counter such situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The European Union has imposed Anti-Dumping Duties against Indian imports in respect of the following commodities as per the details shown against them.

Commodity	Details
(1) Oxalic Acid	Definitive Duty of 4.4% was imposed in November, 1991 which lapsed by the end of November, 1996.
(2) Polyester Yarn	Definitive Duty was imposed in April, 1992 which was withdrawn after a review in December, 1994.
(3) Synthetic fibres of Polyester	Definitive Duty of 7.2% was imposed in January, 1993.
(4) Polyethylene and Polypropylene Sacks and bags	Definitive Duties of upto 36% were imposed in October, 1997.
(5) Unbleached Cotton Fabrics	Provisional Duties were imposed in December, 1996, and April, 1998. On both the occasions the European Commission's proposals for imposing Definitive Duties were rejected by the European Council.
(6) Synthetic Fibre Ropes	Definitive Duties ranging from 53% to 82% have been imposed.
(7) Cotton type bed linen	Definitive Duties ranging from 2.6% to 24.7% were imposed in December, 1997.
(8) Stainless Steel fasteners	Definitive Duties ranging from 11.2% to 54% were imposed in February, 1998.
(9) Potassium Permanganate	Definitive Duty of 5.6% was imposed in July, 1998.
(10) Stainless Steel Bright Bars	Provisional Duties ranging from 10.9% to 17.7% were imposed in May, 1998. The European Commission in November, 1998 decided not to impose Definitive Duties.

(c) Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duties on Indian products will affect India's exports in respect of those commodities to the European Union. It will be, however difficult to exactly quantify the impact of such measures at present, as various other factors also determine the volume of exports.

(d) Defending anti-Dumping cases is basically the responsibility of the targetted Indian companies. However, Government of India is extending all possible help to the domestic industry through the various Export Promotion Councils and also through its missions in the various European countries in fighting their cases in the European Commission.

Economic Sanctions

*290. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japan and Germany have decided to lift the economic sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan in the aftermath of Nuclear Tests; and

(b) if so, the total loan/aid is sought and expected from Japan and Germany respectively during 1998-99, indicating the schemes and projects to be financed therewith?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. However, Japan has recently decided to drop its opposition to Pakistan negotiating a loan from IMF that would have elements of ADB and IBRD finances. During the Pak Foreign Minister's visit to Japan from 16-18, November, 1998, the Japanese Foreign Minister is reported to have stated "If Pakistan signs and ratifies CTBT and implements legislation to control nuclear weapons exports", Japan would consider resuming part of its bilateral assistance. IMF is yet to restore economic assistance to Pakistan and Pakistan has not yet signed the CTBT.

Germany did not impose any economic sanction in the wake of the Nuclear tests. However, they cancelled bilateral Aid-Negotiations which were to be held in May 1998.

(b) As regards Japan, no new non-humanitarian OECF loan and grant is expected during this financial year owing to the economic measures imposed by Japan in May 1998. However, for the ongoing projects Yen 47361.6 million (Rs. 1462.54 crores) has been disbursed as on 31.10.1998 in the current financial year. More disbursements are expected for such on-going projects when they become due. No fresh commitments are expected, as of now, from Germany in view of cancellation of Aid-Negotiations.

Employment in Industrial Sector

*291. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether employment in the industrial sector in the country during the post 1991 period has been adversely affected primarily due to failure of the

Government to provide a level playing field to domestic industry;

(b) whether the latest data available states that the employment has been hit hard in units having an investment of more than Rs. 100 crores;

(c) whether in some of these units as much as 35 per cent reduction in employment capacity has taken place;

(d) whether according to the study conducted by Dr. K. Taneja entitled "impact of liberalisation on the employment in the Indian industrial Sector" the entire fixed capital in the industrial sector has been disturbed; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation which adversely affected the employment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The employment in the organised sector has gone up from 267.33 lakhs in 1991 to 279.41 lakhs in 1996 according to the latest available data on employment in the organised sector covering both public and private sector as per Directorate General of Employment & Training, (DGE&T) Ministry of Labour.

Year (As on 31st March)	Organised Sector (Employment in lakhs)
1991	267.33
1992	270.56
1993	271.76
1994	273.75
1995	279.86
1996	279.41

The DGE & T, does not maintain separate employment data for the units having an investment of more than Rs. 100 crores.

(d) and (e) Fixed capital in the industrial sector has been growing as per the latest available data of annual Survey of Industries (ASI) of Central Statistical Organisation.

Year	Fixed Capital (Rs. Crore)
1991-92	151902.40
1992-93	192871.39
1993-94	224413.33
1994-95	277645.12
1995-96	348467.73

[*Translation*]

Proposals for Revival of Sick PSUs

*292. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for revival of sick public sector undertakings are still under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several problems have cropped up due to delay in finalising the proposals for revival of public sector undertakings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Sick industrial CPSUs are referred to BIFR for evolving revival/rehabilitation plan. As on 30.9.98, 64 industrial CPSUs were registered with BIFR. Of these, revival scheme has been sanctioned for 21 cases of which 2 CPSUs have been declared as no longer sick, one has been divested and others are at different stages of implementation. BIFR have circulated draft scheme for 8 CPSUs and 14 cases are under

enquiry. Government takes enterprise specific measures for revival of these units which include cases which are at draft scheme and enquiry stage.

(c) and (d) Finalisation of revival plan involve various authorities like Promoters/Co-promoters, Financial Institutions/Banks, State Agencies, workers etc. from where relief and concessions/sacrifices and source of fund are to be tied up. During this period, the sick CPSUs may face difficulties on account of shortage of working capital, product obsolescence, high labour cost, obsolete technology, payment of salary/wages of statutory dues. While the problems are sorted out with the concerned authorities/agencies, at the same time, budgetary support is provided on merit, to meet critical expenditure and also for payment of salary and wages.

[*English*]

Committee to waive off Loans

*293. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has set up a Committee to frame uniform guidelines to write off the bad loans;

(b) if so, the terms of reference of the Committee;

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(d) whether the Chairman of Indian Banks Association has ruled out any relaxation in the non-performing assets norm; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an informal Working Group to frame guidelines on write-off/compromise of non-performing assets of bank. The terms of reference of the Group are to examine and to suggest:

1. Criteria for provisional write-off;
2. Criteria for final write-off;
3. Criteria for compromise settlement; and
4. Setting up of Debt Settlement Tribunal in view of the fact that the Debt Recovery Tribunals

(DRT) have no discretion in awarding settlements. The group is likely to complete its work within next three to four months.

(d) and (e) Norms for classification of assets are finalised by the Reserve Bank of India and not by the Indian Banks' Association.

[Translation]

NRI Investment

*294. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow the Non-Resident Indians to invest in unlisted companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date from which the said decision is likely to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) In terms of current policy on NRI investments, NRIs can invest both in listed and unlisted companies engaged in activities in approved sectors, on repatriation basis, under the following approval/reporting mechanism;

- (i) Upto 100% in companies (both listed and unlisted) engaged in the high priority industries listed in Annexure - III to the Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 (as amended) under RBI reporting mechanism;
- (ii) Upto 51% in unlisted companies engaged in Non-Annexure - III manufacturing activities under RBI reporting mechanism;
- (iii) In Non-Annexure - III industries, through the FIPB approval mechanism for all listed companies and investment beyond 51% in unlisted companies on a case to case basis through FIPB approval mechanism.
- (iv) NRI investment is also permitted both in listed and unlisted companies upto 100% in areas like setting up of 100% export oriented units or a unit in Export Processing Zone, housing and real estate development sector, air taxi operations, hospitals and diagnostic centres, etc.

- (v) Besides the above, NRIs could also invest in both listed and unlisted companies engaged in sectors like telecom, banking etc. where specified foreign investment limits operate, subject to case by case FIPB approval.

These measures have been operative in accordance with specific sectoral policies announced from time to time.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for Development of Handlooms

*295. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored schemes being implemented for the development and promotion of handloom industry in the country and the details of financial provisions made thereunder;

(b) the details of achievements made in each State under these schemes during the Eighth Five Year Plan indicating the estimated number of handlooms functioning thereunder and the production therein;

(c) the details of problems being faced by the handloom weavers and the action being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve their problems.

(d) the details of the handloom weavers cooperative societies functioning and the average production thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to boost the performance of handloom sector under the new textiles policy?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) The details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the development and promotion of handloom industry implemented through State Governments along with financial provisions during 8th Five Year Plan are given in the Statement-I.

Apart from the Centrally sponsored Schemes, there are some Central sector schemes for the development of Handloom Sector which are as follows:

- (i) Handloom Expos, District Fairs, Melas, Haats, etc.

(ii) Development of Marketing Complexes through National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd.

(iii) Health Package Scheme.

The details of fund released to each State under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes during the 8th Plan period are given as Statement-II. The number of handlooms functioning in different States and the production therein, is not monitored by the Central Government on a regular basis. The number of looms functioning according to the available information, and the total handloom cloth produced during last 3 years is given in the attached Statement-III.

The problems faced by handloom weavers differ from State to State and mostly pertain to availability of quality raw-material at reasonable price, product development, marketing and credit facilities, etc. In order to solve these problems, the Central Government has implemented the following developmental programmes/schemes:

1. Project Package Scheme.
2. Handloom Development Centre/Quality Dyeing Unit.
3. Workshed-cum-Housing.
4. Development of Exportable Products.
5. Handloom Reservation Act.
6. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
7. Hank Yam Obligation.
8. Market Development Assistance.
9. Welfare Schemes.

According to the available information, approximately 23115 Cooperative Societies were functioning in different States, as per the details given in the attached Statement-IV. However, the Central Government does not monitor the functioning of societies at any point of time, nor maintain the production figures of Cooperative Societies in each State.

The Government has set up an Expert Group to suggest necessary revision in the Textile Policy where performance of handloom sector and its major problems would be addressed.

Statement-I

Details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes through State Governments with Financial Provisions

1. **Project Package Scheme:** The scheme was introduced in the year 1991-92 with an objective to provide the requisite input in an integrated and coordinated manner to the handloom weavers. The funding pattern under the scheme (both Grant and Loan component) is on the basis of equal sharing of contribution by Central/State Government/Implementing Agencies. The financial provision under the scheme during the 8th Plan was Rs. 8,215 lakhs.
2. **Handloom Development Centre (HDC)/Quality Dyeing Units (QDU):** The scheme was introduced in the year 1993-94 with the objective of bringing 30 lakh weavers with 7.5 lakh looms in the Cooperative fold so that the benefits of various schemes accruing to the Handloom Cooperative are available to them. Under the QDU scheme, setting up of micro yarn dyeing unit at the village level were provided for with a view to improve the dyeing practices of the Handloom Sector. A provision of Rs. 9,345 lakhs was provided in the 8th Five Year Plan.
3. **Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme:** The scheme was introduced with the objective to provide a dwelling unit and suitable work place to weavers to improve their productivity and earnings. The assistance under the scheme for Rural Workshed is Rs. 7000/- and for Urban Rs. 10,000/-. For Rural Workshed-cum-Housing the assistance is Rs. 18,000/- and for Urban Rs. 20,000/-. The budget provision during the 8th Five Year Plan was Rs. 4,844/- lakhs.
4. **Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme:** In order to give substantial impetus to the export of handloom fabrics, made-ups and other handloom items from the country, scheme for Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing has been introduced in 1995-96. During the 8th Five Year Plan financial provision of Rs. 750 lakhs was made for the scheme.
5. **Market Development Assistance (MDA):** With a view to ensure continuous production and employment in the handloom sector and to avoid periodic accumulation of stocks with the aid of rebated sale the scheme of MDA was introduced. The rebate which is limited to 20% is borne equally

by the Central and State Governments. During the 8th Five Year Plan financial provision of Rs. 28,124/- lakhs was made for the scheme.

6. **Group Insurance Scheme:** Group Insurance Scheme was introduced in order to meet the socio-

economic obligation of weavers towards his family and the uncertainty of his working capacity in old age. The financial provision under the scheme during the 8th Five Year Plan was for Rs. 677.40 lakhs.

Statement II

Statement showing Achievement made under Centrally Sponsored Scheme during 8th Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	Name of State	Project Package Scheme	Handloom Development Centre & Quality Dyeing Unit	Market Development Assistance Scheme	Scheme For Handloom Export	Workshed Cum Housing Scheme	Group Insurance Scheme	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	87.00	—	—	—	—	—	87.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1259.28	1550.53	3255.72	—	941.71	71.61	7078.85
3.	Assam	1415.78	673.73	513.25	17.50	332.00	—	2952.26
4.	Bihar	133.84	192.89	178.73	—	269.00	5.28	779.74
5.	Gujarat	116.77	28.82	524.59	—	—	4.13	674.31
6.	Haryana	78.26	4.00	285.21	14.00	—	—	381.47
7.	Himachal Pradesh	198.97	82.54	167.16	—	119.41	—	568.08
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	80.30	9.12	473.22	2.59	26.59	10.00	601.82
9.	Karnataka	232.19	141.40	1072.41	—	501.06	30.00	1977.06
10.	Kerala	688.00	493.35	1757.56	6.50	294.44	—	3239.85
11.	Madhya Pradesh	247.59	133.94	434.40	7.00	170.79	1.80	995.52

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12.	Maharashtra	212.81	85.87	680.11	—	60.08	—	1038.87
13.	Manipur	234.67	853.27	34.28	—	155.60	0.72	1278.54
14.	Mizoram	16.00	—	—	—	14.00	—	30.00
15.	Nagaland	514.79	247.91	—	—	164.78	—	927.48
16.	Orissa	711.66	694.85	1878.61	—	255.64	38.80	3579.56
17.	Pondicherry	—	18.50	116.30	—	—	—	134.80
18.	Punjab	63.52	—	104.55	—	—	—	168.07
19.	Rajasthan	429.16	5.28	331.33	—	71.76	—	837.53
20.	Tamil Nadu	539.33	1493.99	9230.11	—	541.50	137.87	11942.80
21.	Tripura	325.10	68.26	87.20	17.50	96.50	—	594.56
22.	Uttar Pradesh	437.55	649.85	2148.80	10.00	574.50	32.00	3852.70
23.	West Bengal	116.74	663.78	1728.72	—	153.97	7.06	2670.27
24.	Delhi	—	—	323.46	—	—	—	323.46
25.	Meghalaya	6.37	—	0.46	—	2.60	—	9.43
26.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total		8145.68	8091.88	25326.18	75.09	4745.83	339.27	46724.03

Statement-III

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Looms
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	213404
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	45060
3.	Assam	1298731
4.	Bihar	72965
5.	Gujarat	21165
6.	Haryana	17378
7.	Himachal Pradesh	30991
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	25253
9.	Karnataka	76719
10.	Kerala	41904
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31380
12.	Maharashtra	66437
13.	Manipur	266915
14.	Meghalaya	7783
15.	Mizoram	94388
16.	Nagaland	71636
17.	Orissa	92316

1	2	3
18.	Punjab	11292
19.	Rajasthan	31694
20.	Tamil Nadu	402046
21.	Tripura	116659
22.	Uttar Pradesh	243675
23.	West Bengal	318514
24.	Goa	41
25.	Delhi	8326
26.	Pondicherry	4841
Total		3611513

Total Handloom Cloth Production during last 3 years

1995-96	7202 Million sq. mtrs.
1996-97	7457 Million sq. mtrs.
1997-98	7867 Million sq. mtrs.

Statement IV

S.No.	Name of the State	No. of Handloom Coop. Societies (Provisional)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	871
2.	Assam	2931

1	2	3
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
4.	Bihar	1492
5.	Gujarat	1314
6.	Haryana	454
7.	Himachal Pradesh	188
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	327
9.	Karnataka	534
10.	Kerala	682
11.	Madhya Pradesh	828
12.	Maharashtra	828
13.	Meghalaya	38
14.	Manipur	1057
15.	Mizoram	172
16.	Nagaland	200
17.	Punjab	755
18.	Orissa	838
19.	Rajasthan	636
20.	Tamil Nadu	1521

1	2	3
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4817
22.	West Bengal	2001
23.	Delhi	437
24.	Pondicherry	14
25.	Goa	3
26.	Tripura	174
27.	Sikkim	3
Total		23115

[English]

Production of Cloth

*296. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any yard-stick regarding per capita requirement of cloth, and total production of cloth in a year;

(b) if so, whether there is any surplus or shortage in production of cloth; and

(c) the details of policy of the Government for export/import of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) While it is difficult to prescribe any yardstick in this regard, there has been progressive increase in production as well as per capita availability of cloth.

(b) Production of cloth is considered adequate in the country.

(c) As regards exports of cotton, the Ministry of Textiles fixes a quota for the cotton year starting with October and ending with subsequent September. The

quantum is decided after taking into consideration factors like domestic need, international market situation, interest of growers and other relevant factors. For the current year, a quota of 5 lac bales has been released.

As regards import, cotton is placed under the Open General Licence (OGL).

[Translation]

Investment in Coal Sector

*297. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked for the coal sector during the current year alongwith the investment made so far in this sector;

(b) the amount made available as investment in this sector by the Union Government and by way of foreign assistance, separately;

(c) the funds allocated for the Rajmahal/Lalmatiya Coal Project; and

(d) the target fixed in regard to coal production during the current year and the extent to which the targets have been met so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The total plan outlay earmarked for the coal sector in 1998-99 is Rs. 4052.75 crores. The total investment made so far by public sector undertakings under the administrative control of Ministry of Coal as on 31.3.1998 is Rs. 30279.48 crores.

(b) The total plan budget provision made by the Union Government towards budgetary support to the coal sector in 1998-99 is Rs. 331 crores. In addition, Rs. 116.10 crores is provided as foreign credit routed through budget.

(c) Lalmatia Underground mine was closed in May, 1989 and Lalmatia Opencast (Pilot Quarry) was closed in March, 1986 and merged with Rajmahal Opencast Project. No separate provision has been made for Rajmahal/Lalmatia mines. However, out of the capital allocated under existing mines, Rs. 2.09 crores has been allocated to Rajmahal/Lalmatia for civil and mining development jobs.

(d) The target for coal production in 1998-99 is 306.50 million tonnes and upto October, 1998, the total coal production was 154.68 million tonnes.

[English]

Export Growth

*298. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the assessment made by M/s. Merrill Lynch that there would be no export growth in India during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the reasons given for the assessment;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed the matter to find out why there was no export growth despite drastic fall in the value of rupee of India; and

(d) if so, the findings of the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the press reports reasons cited for the assessment include global recession in general, a slow down of Western economy and a probable devaluation of Chinese currency in particular.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The fall in value of rupee in October, 98 compared to October, 97 has been only 14.4%. The exports were affected due to a general slow down in world trade, especially recession in many countries in South East Asia and Japan, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agriculture commodities and barriers faced in markets of European Union.

Recession of Economy

*299. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR:
SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the economy is showing signs of recession;

(b) if so, whether the causes for such recession have been identified and corrective measures have been taken to improve the economy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The real GDP growth rate declined from an annual average of 7.5 per cent during the three years ending 1996-97, to 5.1 per cent in 1997-98, due to decline in agriculture value added by 1.5 per cent and slow growth of industrial value added of 5.5 per cent. However, according to the assessment of the Reserve Bank of India, as stated in their end-October Mid-term Review of Monetary and Credit Policy for 1998-99, the real GDP growth rate in the current year is expected to be in the region of 6 per cent.

Government have initiated a wide range of measures through the Union Budget and subsequently to revive growth of agriculture, increase public and private investment in key infrastructure sectors, reinvigorate industry, especially small scale industries, and strengthen the financial and external sectors of the economy.

[*Translation*]

World Bank Loan to CIL

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

(a) the details of the loans obtained by Coal India Limited from the World Bank;

(b) the time by which the loans are likely to be repaid and the rate of interest to be paid on these loans;

(c) the terms and conditions of the loan sanctioned and proposed to be sanctioned by the World Bank; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for the development of underground mines during the last three plan periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) For the Coal Sector Rehabilitation Project, of a total capital cost of US\$ 1697.60 million, CIL has secured a loan of US\$ 530

million from IBRD (World Bank) and an equal amount from Export and Import Bank of Japan (JEXIM) for investment in its 24 coal projects. Details are given in Statement.

(b) The loan from IBRD which has become effective from 17.6.1998 has disbursement period of 5 years and repayment period of 15 years beginning from the year 2003. The interest rate for IBRD loan will be equal to LIBOR Base Rate plus LIBOR Total Spread and are reset semi-annually during the entire tenure of the loan.

(c) The following are the main covenants applicable for the CSR loan that CIL has to comply with:

- (i) Obligations set forth in the Schedule 9 to the Loan Agreement.
- (ii) Conduct all financial transactions between itself and subsidiaries and cause the subsidiaries to conduct all the financial transactions among themselves based on written contracts.
- (iii) Cause BCCL and ECL to maintain a debt to total capitalisation (debt plus net equity) ratio of not more than 70% during the period from financial year 1998 through 2000 and of not more than 60% after financial year 2000.
- (iv) Maintain and cause each subsidiary other than BCCL and ECL, to maintain a debt to total capitalisation ratio of not more than 60%.
- (v) Cause BCCL and ECL from financial year 2001 to maintain a debt service ratio of at least 1.3.
- (vi) Maintain and cause each subsidiary other than BCCL, ECL and CMPDI to maintain a debt service ratio of at least 1.3.

(d) During last three plan periods 191 UG reorganisation and new projects each costing more than 2 crores have been implemented/are under implementation in various subsidiary companies of CIL to create an additional annual capacity of 72 million tonnes.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	Estimated IBRD and JEXIM Component (US\$ million)
1	2	3
CCL		
1.	Parej East OCP (New)	21.00
2.	K.D. Hesalong OCP (Expn.)	26.80
3.	Rajrappa OCP (Replacement)	44.00
SECL		
4.	Dipka (Expn.)	84.20
5.	Dhanpuri OCP (Replacement)	8.80
6.	Kusmunda OCP (Replacement)	51.80
7.	Manikpur OCP (Replacement)	14.20
8.	Gevra OCP (Replacement)	43.00
NCL		
9.	Nigahi OCP (Expn.)	276.60
10.	Dudhichua OCP (Expn.)	167.40
11.	Jayant OCP (Replacement)	63.80
12.	Jhingurda OCP (Replacement)	26.60
13.	Bina OCP (Replacement)	13.80
MCL		
14.	Lakhanpur OCP (New)	12.40
15.	Samleshwari OCP (New)	16.20

1	2	3
16.	Ananta OCP (Expn.)	17.40
17.	Bharatpur OCP (Expn.)	23.60
18.	Belpahar OCP (Replacement)	9.40
19.	Jagannath OCP (Replacement)	14.80
WCL		
20.	Niljai OCP (Replacement)	19.00
21.	Sasti OCP (Replacement)	13.20
22.	Umrer OCP (Replacement)	15.40
23.	Durgapur OCP (Replacement)	25.20
24.	Padampur OCP (Replacement)	14.80
	CIL Corporate (common investment for all sub-projects)	36.60
Total		1060.00

[English]

Show Cause Notice to Ispat Urja Ltd.

3173. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government gave a show cause notice to Ispat Urja Ltd. for violation of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Ispat Urja Ltd. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On 15.1.1997, a notice was issued by Ministry of Coal to the Central India Coal Company Ltd., Central India Power Company Ltd. and to Ispat Urja Limited, to show cause why the notification No. SO 151 (E) dated 27.3.1996 should not be withdrawn. Vide Gazette notification cited above, the Central Government specified as an end use the supply of coal from specified mines by the Central India Coal Company Ltd. on an exclusive basis to the Central India Power Company Ltd. for generation of Thermal Power Subject to the condition that M/s. Ispat Urja Ltd. would hold atleast 26% of voting equity share capital of Central India Coal Company Ltd. and Central India Power Company Ltd. In December, 1996, the Central India Coal Company Ltd. informed the Ministry of Coal that Ispat Urja Ltd. is a company registered in Mauritius and not in India. The Show Cause notice pointed out that this action of M/s. Central India Coal Company Ltd. was in violation of the notification and consequently, the show cause notice was issued. In reply thereto M/s. Ispat Urja Ltd. pointed out that there

would not be any violation of the notification and consequently there would be no cause of action.

Problems of Chilka Lake

3174. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Finance Commission had recognised the special problems of Chilka lake of Orissa and recommended for its all round development along with funds provided for the same;

(b) if so, the main problems thereof alongwith the schemes and programmes approved by the Government so far;

(c) the total money released so far by the Government, year-wise, and recommendations for the Finance Commission thereof; and

(d) the progress made by the Government so far, scheme-wise and programme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) has recommended a grant of Rs. 27 crores to the Government of Orissa for this purpose.

(b) The main problems are area shrinkage, siltation, pollution and weed infestation. Action plans were drawn up by the State Government to control silt-load, improve water exchange and salinity gradient, restore the ecosystem of Nalabana Island for migratory birds, improve road network, develop fishery and to check weed infestation. These action plans costing a total amount of Rs. 27 crores were approved.

(c) and (d) The grant recommended by the TFC is generally released in instalments depending on actual utilisation. Against the total grant of Rs. 27 crores recommended by the TFC, the following amounts have been released so far:—

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount released
1996-97	405.00
1997-98	641.25
1998-99	100.00
Total:	1146.25

The State Government have reported an expenditure of Rs. 597.744 lakhs as on 30.9.98.

Malabar Tourism Circuit

3175. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal to the Union Government to set up Malabar Tourist Circuit;

(b) if so, the details of project and response of Union Government thereon;

(c) whether there are any other schemes for promoting tourism in the Malabar region of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, The State Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal for a new travel circuit "Mangalore-Bekal-Kannur-Calicut-Wayanad-Ooty-Mysore". However, it has been decided that instead of identifying new circuits, efforts should be made to fully develop the existing circuit which is "Cochin-Thekkady-Madurai-Rameshwaram". Bekal beach has been identified separately as a destination.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has prioritised 14 projects in Kerala amounting to Rs. 467.00 lakhs including construction of a Yatri Niwas at Thirunelly in Wayanad District and for purchase of house boats for Malabar for an amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs each.

Duty Evasion by Export Oriented Units in Gujarat

3176. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
DR. RAVI MALLU:
SHRI RAMAKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion has recently unearthed a number of export oriented units (EOUs) for duty evasion in Gujarat and Maharashtra recently;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to strengthen its anti-evasion machinery to check and unearth duty evasion by EOUs in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Acting on intelligence that few 100% Export-Oriented Undertakings (EOUs) were evading duties by diverting polyester filament yarn fraudulently, searches of 100% EOUs, in Punjab, Haryana, Gujarat & Maharashtra were made by the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion in July, 1998. 32 100% EOUs which diverted the goods and four 100% EOUs which received the goods on paper only are being investigated. So far seven persons have been arrested in the case and remanded to judicial custody. The evasion of duty is expected to be around Rs. 75 crores.

(c) and (d) The Government has already initiated actions to strengthen the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion. The Regional Office of the Directorate at Vadodara has been upgraded and a Deputy Director has been posted. An additional post of Deputy Director has been diverted to Mumbai Zonal Office. The new incumbents have already joined. Order has also been issued for diverting some staff from the Commissionerates to the Directorate General's Office.

Benefits of Family Members of New India Assurance Company

3177. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pensionary benefits and other dues are not released immediately to the family members of the deceased official of New India Assurance Company Ltd. in case of employees who were allotted accommodation by the company;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to release the pensionary benefits and other dues immediately to the dependents in such cases as is being done by the Government Departments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the administrative instructions issued by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) in 1995, the competent authority has been authorised to withhold the pensionary benefits of the deceased officials unless his family vacates the staff quarter provided to him by the Corporation/Subsidiary Company.

(c) and (d): As soon as the family of the deceased employee vacates the staff quarter of the concerned company, the pensionary benefits will be released.

Scheme to Unearth Hidden Gold

3178. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce any Amnesty scheme to unearth the gold lying hidden in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Reward to Officers Involved in Fraud Cases

3179. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some officers in the Northern Coalfields Limited who were involved in fraud cases have been further rewarded with prime postings in North-Eastern Coalfields;

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

(c) the details of guidelines issued by Central Vigilance Commission in the allocation of such seats to those officers against whom CVC itself imposed major penalties; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring transparency in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, due to administrative reasons, one of the board level officers of Northern Coalfields Limited has been posted to Gauhati to look after the affairs of North Eastern Coalfields.

(c) The Central Vigilance Commission being an advisory body, do not impose any penalty on an employee of the Central Government or the PSU. However, guidelines exist for non posting of officers of doubtful integrity in identified, sensitive posts.

(d) the Central Government, in effecting transfers, follows the laid down, transparent, guidelines and also considers administrative grounds/reasons.

[Translation]

Promotion in NABARD

3180. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is not entitled to give promotions to the employees of regional rural banks and lay down their service conditions under Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976;

(b) if so, the reasons for withholding the Central Government notification dated 29.7.1998 regarding promotions by NABARD through its circular dated 19.9.1998; and

(c) the time by which the employees of the Bank will be promoted and their service conditions will be improved in accordance with the Regional Rural Bank Act, 1976?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Gazette Notification dated 29.7.1998 has not been withheld by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) and was circulated to sponsor banks of all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) vide their circular dated 19.9.1998. NABARD also mentioned in the said circular that Board of Directors of RRBs be apprised of the existing restrictions on fresh recruitment and promotion alongwith the contents of the Gazette Notification.

(c) The service conditions including promotion of employees of RRBs are governed by the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 read with the Regional Rural Banks (Appointment & Promotion of Officers and Other Employees) Rules, 1998 and implemented by the management of respective RRBs.

[English]

Special Term Loan to Punjab

3181. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Prime Minister had announced any specific amount of relief to the Government of Punjab from the burden of repayment of Special Term loans granted in the context of militancy; and

(b) if so, the details of the relief announced and is being implemented in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) While the former Prime Minister had announced relief to the State of Punjab from the burden of repayment of Special Term loans granted in the context of militancy, no specific amount had been mentioned.

(b) The details of the amounts written off on the basis of the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations and the additional amounts written off

as per Government's later decision are as follows:—

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Amounts written off		Total
	As per Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations (principal)	As per Govt. of India decision (principal & interest)	
1995-96	88.07	803.23	891.30
1996-97	88.07	—	88.07
1997-98	88.07	584.16	672.23
1998-99	110.29	771.15	881.44
1999-2000	120.72	759.35	880.07

Retirement Age

3182. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA:
SHRI P. SANKARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the saving in the Government expenditure during 1998-99 due to enhancement of retirement age of Government employees to 60 years;

(b) the percentage of the expenditure of the total budget of the Union Government which is spent on the salaries, allowances etc. of the Government and public sector employees;

(c) whether this percentage is continuing to increase year to year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to reduce the retirement age of the Government servants from 60 to 58 years;

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

(g) the steps taken by the Government to overcome the backlog of induction and the demand of the unemployed youths upon the increased retirement age?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The estimated saving in the pension expenditure as a result of enhancement of retirement age of Central Government employees in 1998-99 is about Rs. 4300 crore.

(b) The estimated expenditure on the pay and allowances of Central Government employees (excluding Defence Services personnel) during 1998-99 constituted 10.3% of the total expenditure budget of the Union Government. In so far as public sector employees are concerned, the expenditure on their salaries & allowances is not relatable to the Union Government's budget.

(c) and (d) Expenditure on pay and allowances expressed as a percentage of the total Union Budget has not been increasing year to year. This was 10.2% in

1995-96 and 9.5% in 1996-97 based on the actual expenditure for these two years and 10.3% in 1997-98 with reference to the Revised estimates for that year.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to reduce the age of retirement of Central Government employees from 60 to 58 years.

(g) Increase in the age of retirement of Central Government employees does not have a one-to-one relationship with employment opportunities. Recruitment to the posts newly created in the Central Government or to posts which fall vacant has also not been discontinued as a consequence. It is also anticipated that employment opportunities will increase as a result of opening up of sectors such as Telecommunications, Power, etc.

[Translation]

Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission Report in Regional Rural Banks

3183. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRI JAISINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have implemented Fourth and Fifth Bipartite Agreement's recommendations in rural banks like other nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which Sixth bilateral agreement signed by banking industry on December 14, 1995 is not being implemented in regional rural banks; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Consequent upon acceptance of National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) Award read with Equation Committee report, the Government of India extended the pay, allowances and other benefits as available in the IVth and Vth Bipartite Settlement in Nationalised Commercial Banks/ Sponsor Banks to the employees and officers of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with effect from 1.9.1987 and 1.11.1987 respectively vide Government of India's Letter No. F-11-3/90-RRB(1) dated 22.2.1991.

(c) The pay and allowances of the employees of RRBs are governed by Section 17(1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, wherein the Central Government is to determine the remunerations of officers and other employees appointed by RRBs.

(d) The matter is *sub-judice*.

[English]

Fraud in PNB

3184. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation in regard to 1.5 crore fraud in Punjab National Bank Branch, Mumbai, has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons involved in this fraud and the action taken by the Government to get the amount back;

(d) whether some private companies are also found involved in this fraud; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Punjab National Bank has reported that as per their records, no fraud has been committed for Rs. 1.5 crore in any branch of the bank at Mumbai.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Sea Food Export

3185. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh seafood exporters have started to explore markets other than traditional Japanese market;

(b) if so, whether seafood exporters have been able to find market in U.S. and Canada;

(c) whether India has also found China and Thailand; and

(d) if so, the extent to which it has exported seafood to the United States, Canada, China and Thailand?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) In the current year from April 1998 October 1998, India exported to Japan through Vishakhapatnam Port, 10153 metric tons of fish & fishery products worth Rs. 518.72 crores which were mainly sourced from Andhra Pradesh as compared to 9052 metric tons worth Rs. 379.54 crores in the corresponding period of the preceding year. This shows a growth of 12.16% and 36.67% in terms of quantity and value respectively. The United States of America (USA) also happens to be one of the major traditional markets for Indian exports of seafood. In the year 1997-98, India exported to USA 32914 metric tons of fish and fishery products worth Rs. 583.75 crores as compared to 29792 metric tons worth Rs. 436.05 crores in the preceding

year 1996-97, which shows a growth of 10.48% and 33.87% in quantity and value terms respectively. In the year 1997-98 India exported to Canada 1930 metric tons valued at Rs. 21.06 crores as compared to exports of 1978 tons valued at Rs. 20.20 crores in 1996-97 showing a decrease of 2.4% in quantity terms but an increase of 4.26% in value terms.

(c) and (d) In the recent years China has emerged as an important market for exports of fish and fishery products from India. India has also been exporting to Thailand but the magnitude of exports to Thailand is comparatively low. The figures of exports of fish and fishery products to USA, Canada, China and Thailand in the year 1997-98 as compared to the preceding year and in the period (April-October) 1998 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year are as follows:—

Q: Quantity in metric tons

V: Value in Rs. Crores

Country	1996-97	1997-98	Variation %	1997 (April-October)	1998 (April-October)	Variation %
USA	Q: 29792	32914	+10.48	15539	17327	+11.51
	V: 436.05	583.75	+33.87	293.26	357.94	+22.06
Canada	Q: 1978	1930	-2.4	813	1298	+59.66
	V: 20.20	21.06	+4.26	11.28	25.00	+121.63
China	Q: 95390	168844	+126.65	59647	30720	-48.50
	V: 306.88	695.55	+89.59	256.64	156.02	-39.21
Thailand	Q: 10701	9147	-14.52	4719	2952	-37.44
	V: 75.85	96.62	+27.38	48.31	66.05	+36.72

Financial crisis in J&K

3186. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the financial crunch that the J&K Government was facing in the recent times; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State's approved Annual Plan outlay for 1998-99 is Rs. 1900 crores which marks an increase of 22.43% over last year's level. The Plan is being fully funded by Central assistance (90% grant and 10% loan). The estimated non-plan gap is also being filled by the Centre. Besides, security related expenditure incurred by the State Government is also being reimbursed by the Centre as per approved norms.

Export of Horticulture Products

3187. SHRI K.P. NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority proposed to set up an industrial estate for food processing units in Kuppam in Chittoor District (A.P.) for boosting exports of horticulture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grants proposed to be given in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority has a scheme for extending financial assistance for setting up of special infrastructural facilities and for conducting feasibility studies relating to export promotion of agro products. Under the above scheme assistance can be provided to the State Government on receipt of a proposal for the same.

Foreign Tobacco Companies in Cigarette Sector

3188. DR. RAVI MALLU:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has done any study on the impact of the entry of foreign tobacco companies into the cigarette sector;

(b) if so, the details of the study;

(c) whether this study has been done by any outside agency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

I.T. Payers

3189. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new income-tax payees, who have come into the expanded income-tax net under the different new schemes introduced this year and the amount of tax collected from each category of tax payees.

(b) how far the number of tax payees and amount of tax collection fell short of the estimates; and

(c) whether the Government are considering to give another chance to the new tax payees under the new schemes who failed to file returns in due time with some nominal penalties?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Under the provisions of Income-Tax Act, the return of income is filed by a person having taxable income. In addition, the obligation to file return in Form No. 2C is also cast on a person on the basis of fulfilling any one of six economic criteria, if he is not already filing return of income by virtue of having taxable income. This is known as 'One by Six' scheme applicable in certain notified cities for the assessment year 1998-99. The schemes has been introduced with a view to identifying potential tax payers. Since it is relatively easy to target persons on the basis of information relating to economic criteria, it works as a deterrent against those

persons who do not file return of income in spite of having taxable income. These persons are compelled to file return of income and pay tax thereon. Therefore, the success of the scheme is to be measured by the number of new assesses added rather than the number of returns filed under the scheme. Similarly, the significance of the tax collected under the scheme needs to be appreciated in the background of the fact that persons falling under economic criteria and having taxable income are liable to file return of income under main provisions.

(b) In view of the above, no separate details are maintained regarding the number of tax payers who have filed return of income in Form No. 2C and amount of tax collected from them under 'One by Six' Scheme. However, till October, 1998, 21.02 lakhs assesses have been added which includes returns filed under the scheme.

(c) The due date for filing return in Form No. 2C was extended to 31st October, 1998. However, the assessee may furnish return of income anytime before the expiry of one year from the end of relevant assessment year or before the completion of assessment,

whichever is earlier. For filing return of income beyond the due date, he will be liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 500/- only.

Performance of MCL

3190. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) during 1996-97 and 1997-98 as compared to the previous two years;

(b) the number of new projects launched by MCL during the last three years; and

(c) the progress achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The performance of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) during 1996-97 and 1997-98 as compared to the previous two years is given below:

Year	Production (in million tonnes)		Profit (in Rs. crores)
	Target	Actual	
1994-95	25.00	27.33	284.37
1995-96	30.75	32.70	336.07
1996-97	36.00	37.37	326.65
1997-98	39.50	42.17	654.11

(b) and (c) During the last three years MCL has launched one project. The details of progress achieved therefrom are given below:

Name of the project	Sanctioned Capital (Rs. in crores)	Ultimate Capacity (Million tonnes per year)	Expenditure (Rs. in crores) till October, 1998	Remarks
Chendipada	19.75	0.35	0.86	Production yet to be started.

Support Price for Tobacco

3191. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cost of cultivation of tobacco has gone up abnormally in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the support price being given per kg. of tobacco to tobacco growers in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any proposal to revise the support price being given to the tobacco growers of Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The cost of cultivation of FCV tobacco in nominal terms, has shown an increase.

(b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for L2 grade of tobacco for 1998-99 crop, announced on 21.10.98 on the basis of recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), is Rs. 25.50 per kg.

(c) and (d) Minimum Support Price for L2 & F2 grade of tobacco is announced each year on the basis of recommendation of CACP.

[Translation]

Foreign Assistance to Bihar

3192. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bihar has sent any proposal seeking financial assistance from international agencies for some development oriented projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The details of proposals received from the Government of Bihar for seeking financial assistance

from international agencies which are under consideration are as follows:

- (i) Participatory on-farm Development Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 431.28 crore.
- (ii) Dumraon Branch Canal Command Area Development Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 84.74 crore.
- (iii) Chandil Dam Left Bank Canal (Reduced Package) Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 473.15 crore.

All the above proposals received from Government of Bihar are pending with the World Bank.

Another proposal on 'Granite Mining and processing by Bihar State Development Corporation' for French Credit was received directly from the Government of Bihar. The proposal has been sent to the Administrative Ministry for their comments.

Sanctioning of Loans by State Bank of India

3193. SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the State Bank of India in Delhi that have violated the rules by mortgaging the credit letter issued by the Government and sanctioned loan to factories, companies, and businessmen by giving guarantee during the last two years, branch-wise;

(b) whether a number of shortcomings have been detected in sanctioning the loan;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of times the CBI has inquired the official in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Department/CBI against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Equal Pay for Equal Work Policy

3194. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the policy of 'equal pay for equal work' had been given priority at the time of nationalisation of

128 mills being run by National Textiles Corporation in 1974;

(b) whether this policy was limited to Officers, Supervisors, Chief Accountants and in case of clerks, watch and ward office, peons and car drivers;

(c) whether Government have received any memorandum or request in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the Government propose to take a final decision in this regard so that principle of equal pay may be implemented for all classes?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) 103 mills were nationalised by the Sick Textiles Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act 1974. According to Section 14 (1) and (2) of the said Act, workmen and other employees of the 103 undertakings became employees of NTC with effect from 1.4.1974 and they were governed by the same terms and conditions of employment applicable to them before 1.4.1974, till they were duly altered by National Textiles Corporation.

Presently, the employees of NTC are governed broadly by 3 patterns of pay scales viz. IDA pay scales, CDA pay scales and 'Region-cum-Industry' formula. The clerical staff, watch and ward, peons, car drivers of NTC mills have moved the Courts for parity of pay scales with similar categories in NTC subsidiary offices and the matter is sub-judice in the Supreme Court. They have also represented to the Government in this regard.

[English]

Insurance Sector

3195. SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Cooperative Union of India, the apex body of cooperative unions, have submitted a draft proposal to the Government highlighting their intention to enter both life and general insurance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the present insurance set-up in the country has failed in providing need-based and effective services in rural and semi-urban areas, specially to cooperative societies;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the proposal submitted by National Cooperative Union of India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Under the existing insurance laws, the life and general insurance business in the country are exclusive privileges of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) and its four subsidiaries. Finance Minister in his 1998-99 Budget Speech announced the intention of the Government that in order to provide better insurance coverage to our citizens and also to augment the flow of long-term resources for financing infrastructure sector; it is proposed to open the insurance sector to competition from private Indian companies; to convert the Insurance Regulatory authority into a statutory body; and to introduce necessary legislation later in the year. Accordingly, the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1998 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15.12.1998. This Bill, *inter-alia*, seeks to provide for doing away with the exclusive privilege of LIC, GIC and its four subsidiaries, to transact life and general insurance business respectively in the country. Under the existing insurance laws, the National Cooperative Union of India cannot be granted a certificate of registration. If and when the sector gets open up, their request will be examined on merits by the competent authority at the appropriate time.

Modernisation of CCI

3196. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal under consideration of the Government to modernise the Cement Corporation of India (CCI) at Kurkunta in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay and action taken by the Government in this regard so far;

(c) the profit and loss of the company during each of the last three years; and

(d) the reasons for losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Cement Corporation of India (CCI) was referred to BIFR on 25.4.96 under the provisions of SICA. BIFR has already prepared and circulated a Draft Rehabilitation

Scheme for the Company on 12.6.98, which, inter-alia, includes capital expenditure in respect of Kurkunta Plant. It is for BIFR to take a final view in the matter.

(c) The profit/(loss) of the Company for the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in Crores)	
Year	Net Profit/(loss)
1995-96	(104.75)
1996-97	(159.41)
1997-98 (Prov.)	(97.54)

(d) The main reasons for the losses are high break-even level of the units; low capacity utilisation; high interest burden; substantial increase in the cost of various inputs; severe working capital shortage etc.

Diversion of Fund

3197. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a sizeable amount from the peripheral Development Fund of Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. (MCL) has been sanctioned for Construction of road and providing the lightning arrangement in Puri which is out of the periphery of MCL;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint against such illegal sanction;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to punish the officials involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited on the request of Executive Officer, Puri Municipality and Collector/District Magistrate, Puri, the lighting arrangement of sea beach at Puri was taken up by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited at a cost of Rs. 13 lakhs covering an area of about 3 Kms. under the special community development programme.

(b) The above developmental work was undertaken by the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited with the approval of competent authority.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of reply to (b) above.

Victims of Trade Union Functionaries

3198. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2450 on June, 12, 1998 and state:

(a) whether representations have been received from All India National General Insurance Employees Association in May, 1998 against blocking the promotions of Trade Union Functionaries to higher cadre on fake grounds with discrimination due to vindictive attitude of the management; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken to rectify the discriminatory and arbitrary action of the management?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'New India' has reported that as per inquiries made by them, no instance of alleged discrimination or victimisation or vindictiveness of any of the trade union functionaries in the matter of promotion has come to light.

Income Tax Returns

3199. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently launched a new scheme for filing of Income Tax under new economic criteria by IT payers in a number of cities;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme alongwith the names of the cities;

(c) whether the Income Tax payers in satellite towns around Delhi namely Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon comes in the ambit of this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) With a view to identifying potential tax payers, Income Tax Act was amended by Finance

Act, 1997 making it obligatory for persons to file income tax returns on the basis of fulfilling certain economic criteria if they are not already filing returns of income. For the assessment year 1997-98 the requirement to file return of income was on the basis of fulfilling any two of the four criteria in twelve notified cities. Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 has expanded the scope of these provisions by adding two more economic criteria and making it obligatory to file return of income on the basis of fulfilling any one of the six criteria. Twenty-three more cities have also been notified where these provisions shall be applicable. The scheme is known as 'One by Six Scheme' and is applicable for the assessment year 1998-99. The six economic criteria are as follows:—

- (i) Occupation of an immovable property of a specified floor area by way of ownership, tenancy or otherwise.
- (ii) Ownership/lease of a motor vehicle.
- (iii) Subscription of a telephone.
- (iv) Foreign Travel.
- (v) Holding of a credit card, not being an add-on card.
- (vi) Membership of a club charging entrance fee of Rs. 25,000 or more.

Following cities including their urban agglomeration have been notified where these provisions should be applicable:—

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Kanpur, Jaipur, Ludhiana, Hyderabad, Pune, Chandigarh, Agra, Allahabad, Bhopal, Coimbatore, Dhanbad, Indore, Jabalpur, Jamshedpur, Kalyan, Kochi, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Madurai, Meerut, Nagpur, Patna, Surat, Thane, Trivandrum, Vadodara, Varanasi, Vijayawada, Vishakhapatnam.

(c) and (d) Urban agglomeration of Delhi includes satellite towns around Delhi, namely, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon.

Setting up of New STC Centre in Karnataka

3200. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish new STC centre in Karnataka, particularly the districts like Dharwad, Belgaum & Haveri; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Problems of SSIs

3201. SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of difficulties/problems are faced by small and cottage industries in the country, particularly in Haryana and Uttar Pradesh regarding export of items;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) the main problems faced by the exporters are infrastructure and credit related. Infrastructure related problems in land locked states like Haryana and U.P. are more relevant than in other States.

(c) It has always been the endeavour of the Government of India and various State Governments to facilitate exports by finding solutions to specific problems by organising Open House Meets with officials of various Ministries and State Government Departments. The State Governments also have their own policies for boosting exports and are striving to provide better facilities, removing infrastructural bottlenecks, encouraging the thrust sectors in respective States having untapped or inadequately tapped export potential of the SSI clusters in rural/semi-urban areas, to encouraging new entrepreneurs to set up export oriented units and to attract Foreign Direct Investment for joint ventures for exports. With the States assuming an active role in encouraging exports, the situation is expected to improve leading to higher export growth.

[English]

Cigarette Industry by U.K. in India

3202. DR. SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since examined the proposal of Rothmans of U.K. for setting up of a cigarette industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have imposed any conditions on the Company for export obligation; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The proposal of M/s. Rothmans of Pall Mall (International) Ltd., U.K. for setting up a 100% wholly owned subsidiary is under consideration of Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Deptt. of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Industry.

Export of Tyres

3203. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which tyres are being exported at present;

(b) the total value of the tyres exported to those countries during the last three years;

(c) whether the tyre industry has set any higher target for the export during the coming years; and

(d) if so, the details of the projection made till the end of 2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Major countries to which various types of tyres & tubes are being exported are Afghanistan, Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Egypt, Germany, Ghana, Iran, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey, U.S.A., U.A.E., U.K., Vietnam, Zimbabwe and Uganda.

(b) The export details of various types of tyres & tubes for the last three years are follows:

(Rs. in Crores)		
1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Estimated)
798.42	865.60	986.20

(Sources: Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council (Capexil))

(c) and (d) Capexil has provisionally projected an export target of Rs. 1210 crores for 1999-2000.

[Translation]

Revival of Sick Mills

3204. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of N.T.C. mills proposed to be kept running in Maharashtra;

(b) the opinion of the Government about the N.T.C. mills in Urban and Rural areas of the State;

(c) the extent of amount the Government propose to allocate for the modernisation of N.T.C. mills in the State, mill-wise;

(d) the future planning of the Government for the daily or casual workers working in State N.T.C. mills for the last many years;

(e) whether the Government propose to implement Gujarat pattern for N.T.C. mills in Maharashtra; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (f) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith with the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the network of these mills turning positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

[English]

Collection of Revenue from Cigarette Industry

3205. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
DR. RAVI MALLU:
DR. SANJAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate revenue collected by the Union Government from the cigarette industry during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment about the loss of revenue as a result of the entry of multi-national companies with 100% FDI in this sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to conduct such assessment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Amount of excise duty collected on cigarettes during the last two years is as given below:

Year	Excise duty amount
1996-97	Rs. 3982 crore
1997-98	Rs. 4454 crore (Provisional)

Statistics relating to the collection of indirect tax are not maintained in an industry-wise manner.

(b) No.

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

(d) Presently, there is no proposal under consideration for any duty/tax concessions for cigarette industry. Therefore, no such assessment is required.

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

Shortage of Staff in Banks

3206. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of staff in nationalised banks, particularly in the Central Bank of India;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recruit more staff in these banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No shortage of staff has been reported

in nationalised banks except Indian Overseas Bank, Central Bank of India, Bank of Maharashtra, Vijaya Bank & Corporation Bank. These banks have taken steps to make up the shortage through direct recruitments/promotions.

Central Bank of India has reported that overall there is no shortage of staff but in certain States particularly Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and North Bengal there is shortfall in clerical cadre. As regards subordinate staff, the bank has shortages particularly in the categories of armed guards, drivers and sub-staff for newly opened branches. The main reason for the shortage in certain areas is due to difficulty in inter-station mobility of clerks & sub-staff. The bank has approached the RBI with a request to grant permission for recruitment of need based staff particularly for the above mentioned States.

Survival of A.F.T. Mills, Pondicherry

3207. SHRI S. ARUMUGHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether an expert committee had submitted its report on August 5, 1994 about the feasibility at A.F.T. Mills at Pondicherry and the suggestions for the survival of the A.F.T. Mills;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have made arrangements for the necessary funds of 50 crores of rupees for the modernisation of A.F.T. Mills either by bank loans or any other means;

(d) whether the Government will issue the order for C.B.I. inquiry on the malpractices and mismanagement in the above mills; and

(e) the details of the steps taken by the Government to survive the Mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the State Government.

Income Tax Payers

3208. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income Tax payers in Delhi;

(b) the number and details out of them who have sought income tax exemption on income from agriculture during the last three years; and

(c) the amount of exemption sought and the amount exempted during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The number of Income tax payers in Delhi

are 8,62,461 as on 31.3.98.

(b) and (c) Separate statistics of exemption sought by tax payers on income from agriculture and exemption granted against the same, is not maintained by the Department. However, information relating to agricultural income aggregated with total income for rate purposes and additional demand resulting from such aggregation for Delhi is as follows:

(Rs. '000)

Year	Number of assessments involving Aggregation of Agricultural income	Amount of net Agricultural income Aggregated	Additional demand resulting from Aggregation of Agricultural income
1996-97	7	15841	40
1997-98	749	79215	14489
*1998-99 (upto June, 98 latest available)	2	137	—

* Figures are provisional

Amount collected under National Savings Scheme

3209. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount collected through the National Savings Scheme in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount expected to be collected during 1998-99;

(c) the steps taken to attract the investors to invest more in NSS;

(d) the State-wise number of agents working and the commission disbursed to them;

(e) whether the Government are aware that inordinate delay is being experienced in disbursing the commission to the agents; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The amount collected through National Savings Schemes in the country during the last three years, State-wise is attached as statement.

(b) The revised estimates for collections are yet to be finalised. The Budget Estimate for 1998-99 for the gross collections was Rs. 43470 crore.

(c) (i) The Government of India is operating a number of schemes to cater to different categories of investors on very attractive terms with the assured advantage of liquidity, safety and operational ease.

(ii) A large network of Post Offices and Public Sector Banks implement these schemes all over the country including remote and rural areas. More than five lakh agents are also engaged in the mobilisation of the resources.

(iii) the National Savings organisation undertakes the training to motivate the agents and conducts publicity campaigns for all the schemes.

(d) The information is being collected from Department of Posts and National Savings Organisation.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. There are no inordinate delays. Sometimes delay in settling the commission claims to agents do occur due to bunching of claims from the agents.

Statement

Gross and Net collections of Small Savings Schemes in Post Offices State-wise and UTs (with legislature)

(Rs. in thousand)

State/UT	1995-96		1996-97		1997-98	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	19958137	6098805	16312710	2012149	21269303	6618089
Bihar	19413942	4334751	21059550	6584181	28613839	13055988
Base	567023	55234	676066	90890	935409	247082
Delhi	12507907	6582091	11877627	1623378	17974906	9975085
J&K	3058872	1615304	3031014	1274885	4313799	2069725
Karnataka	13535696	2939543	13073121	3518226	17709240	3253876
M.P.	12101251	3908285	12558301	4672933	16477546	7533516
Orissa	7245679	2754609	6987443	1382484	8668872	3647044
Rajasthan	14627854	5107055	16558127	5834044	22696437	10446194

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
U.P.	50400738	19898689	49338957	15740097	65833906	27757708
Haryana	9519613	3203755	10508271	3942578	13836396	6665290
Tamil Nadu	19659165	3798104	20519874	3629762	22065504	3952546
Pondicherry	127858	23145	143426	30385	201022	78853
Maharashtra	32311263	-5714312	34177070	30014825	51908600	24355618
Goa	695367	89144	699539	127606	986048	334824
Gujarat	25916660	10056479	27073629	9237244	38747689	17543789
Kerala	9383308	2970765	9114816	1768512	11405989	2634381
Punjab	14608028	5805677	15587170	7267328	22260992	12136985
Himachal Pradesh	8983164	3899512	8141793	-1775584	19578008	9419506
W. Bengal	43786368	19366101	45418200	21445951	63743159	38016095
Sikkim	85685	60217	73243	39343	113682	77184
Assam	6560156	2390678	7406284	2178173	8470751	2745294
Manipur	225101	119853	267188	142984	338061	188178

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Meghalaya	365323	-7217	398341	110641	495786	161629
Tripura	975424	333909	931669	277197	1447130	708986
Mizoram	160875	53977	156331	5309	230912	47902
Nagaland	91900	24897	151910	89866	158983	78341
Arunachal Pradesh	122710	53131	131021	58408	200416	125269
Total	326995067	99757222	332372691	121323795	460680385	203924977

Import of Tonners

3210. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some importers are importing tonners (used in photocopying machines) at much lower declared prices than actual prices prevailing in the international market;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposed to find out the difference between the actual prices and the declared prices of various grades of tonners and the extent of duty evasion thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the importers are hiding the real quantity of tonners imported by not declaring the weight of the consignment in kilograms but in terms of drums or cartons or units; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The information is being collected from the various Customs Houses and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pension Scheme in State Bank of Hyderabad

3211. SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a contributory pension scheme (old scheme) is in vogue in State Bank of Hyderabad and also new scheme is introduced in the bank alongwith other subsidiaries of State Bank of India (SBI);

(b) whether the State Bank of India has introduced in June, 1997, a restructured pension scheme for its employees with retrospective effect from November 1, 1993;

(c) the management of the State Bank of Hyderabad on the demand of the retired employees recommended in October, 1997, similar improvements to the old pension scheme to SBI and Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, the recommendations have not been implemented so far; and

(e) if so, the reasons behind the delay and when are they going to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) State Bank of Hyderabad has sent proposal in October, 1997 to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and State Bank of India (SBI) in this regard. RBI has examined the matter and is in the process of taking 2 decision in consultation with SBI.

Coal Projects

3212. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ongoing and new projects of Coal India Ltd., subsidiary-wise with production potential, time frame for execution, estimated cost, employment generation potential, both direct and indirect, production phasing and present status of execution;

(b) whether the work at ongoing projects and execution of new projects has been adversely affected due to resource constraints;

(c) if so, the details of fresh policy measures/decisions taken to ensure accelerated investment in the coal sector through private and foreign investment or financial support;

(d) whether perspective coal production plan of the WCL could not keep pace with the demand projections of power projects in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to meet the shortfall in supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The details sought for are given in the attached Statements I & II.

(b) and (c) Due to fund constraint in some subsidiaries of CIL, a few projects under implementation have been affected. To meet this situation, funds on commercial terms from linked consumers against future

coal supplies are being arranged. CIL has also secured a loan of US \$530 million from the IBRD (World Bank) and an equal amount from the Export Import Bank of Japan (JEXIM) to make investments in coal projects. Private sector participation in coal mining has been encouraged by the government for captive mining for generation of power, manufacture of iron and steel and cement.

(d) and (e) For coal demand of existing power projects in Maharashtra, actual production/despatch of coal is not a constraint. Supply of coal to MSEB power houses during 1997-98 was to the extent of 15.64 m.tes. against the linkage of 13.46 m.tes. Additional linkage of 2.00 mtpa has been granted to Khaperkheda Extn. Stage-II TPS (2x210 MW). As per production programme of Western Coalfields Ltd., during 2001-02 the production will increase to 34.7 mt. from 32.51 mt. in 1997-98. The production will further increase to 36.62 mt. during 2006-07. Beyond this time-frame, the projected demand of power stations in Maharashtra is expected to outstrip WCL's production capacity. For this, there is a plan to open a number of new coal projects during 9th plan and 10th plan, most of which are financially non-viable at current prices of different grades of coal due to adverse geo-mining conditions and low grade of coal. Negotiations with MSEB are in progress to enable WCL to open 9th plan projects.

Statement-I

Details of Projects of Coal India Ltd. under implementation (costing Rs. 20 crs. and above)

Sl No.	Company	Project	Type	Date of Sanction	Production Potential (Mty)	Sanctioned Capital (Rs. Crs.)	Time-frame for Execution		Employment Potential (Direct Employment)	Production Programme as Per PR 98-99
							PR Sch.	Antiptd.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1	ECL	Sarpi	UG	Sep. 87	0.90	53.05	Mar. 95	Mar. 05	2322	0.47
2.	ECL	Jambad	OC	Apr. 97	0.80	136.88	Mar. 98	Mar. 04	713	0.80
3.	ECL	Satgram	UG	Sep. 90	1.20	148.28	Mar. 96	Mar. 01	1760	0.73
4.	ECL	Rajmahal Capacity Opt	OC	Sep. 96	1.50	16.86	Mar. 02	Mar 04	171	0.00
5.	ECL	Jhanjra Ph-I	UG	Aug. 95	2.00	403.96	Mar. 98	Mar. 02	2500	2.00
6.	ECL	Kalidaspur	UG	Nov. 95	0.54	74.05	Mar. 98	Mar. 04	1394	0.54

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	ECL	Kottadih (UG+OC)	UG	Jun. 89	2.48	287.52	Mar. 98	Mar. 03	2283	1.79
8.	ECL	J.K. Nagar	UG	Feb. 91	0.87	95.28	Mar. 93	Mar. 01	1600	0.28
9.	BCCL	Pootkee Ballihari	UG	Dec. 83	3.00	199.87	Mar. 94	Mar. 01	3352	1.00
10.	BCCL	Vishwakarma	OC	Feb. 98	0.70	44.74	Mar. 02	Mar. 08	843	0.00
11.	BCCL	Block-III	OC	Aug. 91	0.45	45.97	Mar. 98	Mar. 00	457	0.00
12.	BCCL	Sulunga Jeenagora	OC	Aug. 97	0.70	41.60	Mar. 01	Mar. 01	518	0.00
13.	CCL	Bokaro Bermo Seam	OC	May. 95	0.80	46.76	Mar. 00	Mar. 00	885	0.80
14.	CCL	Sangam Expn.	OC	Feb. 95	0.50	32.66	Mar. 98	Mar. 99	842	0.50
15.	CCL	Jharkhand	OC	Oct. 98	1.00	110.89	Mar. 04	Mar. 08	780	0.00
16.	CCL	K.D. Hesalong Expn.	OC	Dec. 95	4.50	273.41	Mar. 00	Mar. 00	1195	3.00
17.	CCL	Parej East	UG	Sep. 92	0.30	28.42	Mar. 99	Mar. 01	748	0.30
18.	CCL	Ray-Bachra	UG	Mar. 91	0.60	30.19	Mar. 97	Mar. 98	1843	0.60
19.	CCL	Saunda D	UG	Mar. 91	0.63	47.94	Mar. 98	Mar. 99	2000	0.63
20.	CCL	Urimari (1.30)	OC	Aug. 94	1.30	95.33	Sep. 99	Sep. 99	735	1.30
21.	CCL	Parej East	OC	Mar. 93	1.75	118.19	Mar. 98	Mar. 00	1090	1.75
22.	CCL	Saunda D	OC	Sept. 91	0.80	48.96	Mar. 99	Mar. 99	674	0.80
23.	NCL	Nigahi Expn.	OC	Jul. 97	10.00	1846.49	Mar. 04	Mar. 05	2948	4.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
24.	NCL	Dudhichua Expn.	OC	Aug. 92	10.00	868.93	Mar. 98	Mar. 04	3208	9.00
25.	WCL	Telwasa	OC	Feb. 95	0.45	42.10	Mar. 99	Mar. 99	347	0.45
26.	WCL	Pimpalgaon	OC	Mar. 91	0.60	44.51	Mar. 97	Mar. 00	513	0.60
27.	WCL	Gondegaon	OC	Dec. 92	0.75	67.96	Mar. 00	Mar. 00	674	0.75
28.	WCL	Pauni	OC	Sep. 96	0.60	45.63	Mar. 01	Mar. 01	370	0.60
29.	WCL	Saoner Expn.	UG	Feb. 98	0.42	47.56	Mar. 01	Mar. 01	941	0.80
30.	WCL	Naherya	UG	Jun. 96	0.36	46.17	Mar. 03	Mar. 03	1023	0.00
31.	WCL	Makradhokra-II	UG	Sept. 92	0.27	25.92	Mar. 98	Mar. 00	730	0.27
32.	WCL	Tandsi	UG	Jul. 97	0.60	77.77	Mar. 01	Mar. 01	1624	0.45
33.	WCL	Sasti Ro	UG	Apr. 93	0.36	38.25	Mar. 98	Mar. 00	1264	0.36
34.	WCL	Mugoli	OC	Jan. 95	0.80	83.63	Mar. 99	Mar. 99	666	0.80
35.	SECL	Balarampur PSL, W Expn.	UG	Dec. 94	0.54	47.79	Mar. 99	Mar. 99	849	0.54
36.	SECL	Behraband	UG	May 94	0.60	48.39	Mar. 98	Mar. 99	1743	0.60
37.	SECL	Dipka Expn.	OC	Dec. 96	10.00	533.96	Mar. 02	Mar. 02	2104	5.50
38.	SECL	Zero SM Chirimiri RPR	UG	Mar. 98	0.43	49.21	Mar. 04	Mar. 04	354	0.00
39.	SECL	Sheetaldhara	UG	May 95	0.51	48.22	Mar. 02	Mar. 02	1917	0.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
40.	SECL	Pinoura Aug	UG	Mar. 98	0.48	49.93	Mar. 04	Mar. 04	1027	0.00
41.	SECL	Mahan	OC	Jun. 96	0.36	41.95	Mar. 00	Mar. 00	477	0.10
42.	SECL	Churha West PSLW	UG	Dec. 94	0.65	48.61	Mar. 99	Mar. 01	818	0.65
43.	SECL	New Kumda (PSLW)	UG	Dec. 94	0.60	45.31	Mar. 99	Mar. 99	902	0.48
44.	SECL	Rajendra PSLW RPR	UG	Dec. 94	0.64	48.57	Mar. 99	Mar. 99	941	0.60
45.	SECL	Vindhya AUG	UG	Mar. 98	0.59	49.90	Mar. 04	Mar. 04	646	0.00
46.	SECL	Kapildhara AUG	UG	Mar. 98	0.51	47.31	Mar. 04	Mar. 04	885	0.00
47.	MCL	Lakhanpur	OC	Jan. 92	5.00	221.51	Mar. 96	Mar. 00	1469	5.00
48.	MCL	Kalinga	OC	Mar. 92	8.00	345.96	Mar. 00	Mar. 00	1440	5.50

Employment generation potential (indirect)—indirect employment is dependent with the progress of the project. Such employments are generated by executing agencies for certain jobs engaged by Subsidiary Companies. Indirect employment is shopping complex etc. Actual number can not be assessed firmly.

Statement II

Details of New Projects of Coal India Ltd. (Advance Action Plan Sanctioned)

Company	Project	Type	Date of sanction	Production potential (mty)	Estimated capital (Rs. Crs.)	Time-frame for execution
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NCL	Bine Mine-II	OC		1.80	330.58	IX Plan
	Block B	OC		3.00	380.32	X Plan
MCI	Basundhara (W)	OC		2.4	189.85	IX Plan
	Bhubaneswari	OC		10.00	697.62	IX Plan

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Garjanbahal	OC		10.00	763.69	X Plan
	Hingula I	OC		4.00	201.27	IX Plan
	Kaniah	OC		3.50	294.71	IX Plan
	Kulda	OC		10.00	947.85	IX Plan
CCL	North Urimari	OC		3.00	373.27	IX Plan
	Topa	OC		1.2	110.22	IX Plan
	Konar	OC		3.50	300.93	X Plan
	Karo I	OC		1.50	109.71	IX Plan
	Kaveri	OC		2.00	104.66	X Plan
	Purnadih East	OC		2.00	130.19	IX Plan
	Montico	OC		0.40	48.13	IX Plan
SECL	Amadand A	OC		1.15	156.54	IX Plan
ECL	Chitra West	OC		0.70	65.82	X Plan
	Rajmahal C	OC		4.00	560.42	X Plan
WCL	Nirguda	OC		0.75	77.40	IX Plan
	Urdhan	OC		0.70	105.25	IX Plan
	Dhorwasa	OC		0.55	49.95	IX Plan

Further some projects are under formulation.

Closure of HMT Showroom

3213. SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent closure of HMT showroom in Srinagar;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the negative impact on development of the State by such Act, and resultant unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The showroom was found to be unviable.

(c) There would be no net negative impact as Government has sanctioned revival plan for Srinagar Watch Factory. The employees of the showroom were redeployed in other units of the company.

Enemy Property

3214. SHRI DEVJIBHAI J. TANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of properties have been declared as "Enemy Property" under Enemy Property Act, 1968;

(b) the number out of these are under possessions of the Government;

(c) the number of such properties are in the U.T. of Daman and Diu and whether they are in Government's possession;

(d) if not, the efforts made by the Government to take the possession of these properties in Daman and Diu;

(e) whether the custodian of Enemy Properties based at Mumbai ever visited these properties; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) 543 immovable properties have been declared as enemy properties. Custodian of Enemy Property for India (CEP) Mumbai, is having constructive possession of these properties. Actual possession is with leasees/tenants as authorised by CEP, Mumbai.

(c) and (d) There is only one enemy property in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu and it is under the constructive possession of the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, Mumbai.

(e) The present Custodian of Enemy Property, Mumbai has not inspected the said enemy property since assuming charge in the year 1993.

(f) The district Administration of Diu was authorised by the Custodian of Enemy Property for India, Mumbai under Enemy Property Act, 1968 to preserve and manage the above said enemy property and as such they have been preserving and managing the said enemy property.

[*Translation*]

Recruitment in IDBI/FCI

3215 SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees recruited by Industrial Development Bank of India and the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd, during the year 1996, 1997 and 1998, post-wise; and

(b) the number of employees out of them belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, post-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India

(!DBI) has reported the cadre-wise data as follows:

Year	Cadres	Total Recruitment	Out of which	
			SC	ST
1998 Jan.-June	Officers (Class I)	33	5	3
	Clerical (Class III)	8	2	1
	Sub Staff (Class IV)	—	—	—
1997 Jan.-Dec.	Officers (Class I)	61	0	6
	Clerical (Class III)	40	5	2
	Sub Staff (Class IV)	22	13	3
1996 Jan.-Dec.	Officers (Class I)	84	15	3
	Clerical (Class III)	54	9	8
	Sub Staff (Class IV)	28	10	4

Information in respect of Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent possible.

[English]

Irrigation Equipments Manufacturing Units

3216. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the difficulties being faced by tiny and small irrigation equipment manufacturing units throughout the country due to notification issued by CBEC relating to classification and dutiability of Plastic Pipes and other Plastic items used in the manufacture of Sprinkler Irrigation equipments;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken a note of various representations forwarded by Sprinkler Irrigation Equipment Manufacturing Units about the complexity arising out of the notification dated March 16, 1995; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to initiate for clearing all possible doubts at all levels?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) A circular No. 380/13/98-CX was issued by CBEC on 16.3.98 regarding classification and dutiability of plastic pipes and other plastic items used in the manufacture of Sprinklers Irrigation equipments.

(b) Representations have been received seeking clarification relating to the said circular dt. 16.3.98 and the Govt. has taken a note thereof.

(c) There is no ambiguity in the circular dt. 16.3.1998. However, it is also mentioned that all inputs, used in the manufacture of a final product which is exempt from excise duty, cannot be exempted from excise duty.

Import of Tea

3217. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import tea;

[*Translation*]

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

Discretionary Quota of Ministers

(c) the steps taken by the Government to protect the domestic tea industry *vis-a-vis* people engaged in the Industry?

3219. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government do not propose to import tea as such. However, Government have permitted free import of tea, as one of the 2307 items from SAARC countries in order to give a fillip of Intra-regional trade.

(a) whether the Government have fixed any discretionary quota for Ministers;

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

(c) whether this quota was increased during 1997-98;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Ministry-wise;

(c) Orders and regulations under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, safeguards built into the SAPTA agreement including Rules of Origin and the basic import duty of 10% plus other duties such as special customs duty, countervailing duty etc. are considered sufficient to protect the domestic tea industry from unfair competition.

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding misuse of this discretionary quota; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Collaboration with Newzealand

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

3218. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether New Zealand has expressed its intention to have collaboration with India in the field of textiles;

[*English*]

Investment in Core and Non-core Sector

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

3220. SHRI SODE RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

(a) whether the Government considered investment in the core sector to be important;

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The New Zealand Minister for International Trade called on the Union Minister of Textiles in October, 1998 and *inter alia* stressed the importance of close trade ties between India and New Zealand. No specific proposal has however, been received by the Ministry of Textiles from the Govt. of New Zealand.

(b) whether the Government have been concentrating on non-core items, like tooth-paste, liquor and tobacco for foreign investment;

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to correct this lopsided slant in investments between core and non-core sectors;

The Government have approved a technical/financial collaboration between an Indian Company, Atulit Impex Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta and a New Zealand Company, Corlett Corporation Ltd., Auckland for export of cotton textiles, yarns, garments and garments related items.

(d) whether any time frame has been set up to correct this lopsided investment policy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Out of the total approvals given to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) projects so far (August 1991 to October 1998), infrastructure, transportation and services sectors alone account for nearly 44 per cent.

Government has been encouraging FDI to supplement national efforts, particularly in the core sector, including infrastructure, and has put in place a liberal FDI policy with transparent guidelines for approval of FDI projects. In order to promote core sector investment the Government has deregulated coal and petroleum refinery sector; allowed 100% foreign equity in power sector under automatic approval route upto Rs. 1500 crore etc. Initiatives are underway to allow 100% FDI under automatic route in certain other areas of infrastructure such as roads & highways, vehicular tunnels, bridges, ports, etc.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Goods seized by Calcutta Customs

3221. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Customs authorities have seized a large number of imported machines including Photo Colour Lab equipments;

(b) whether these machines have been imported under the garb of second hand machines under OGL;

(c) whether authorities without determining the actual amount of duties and penalties are trying to release them under 'Samadhan Scheme';

(d) whether the Government would immediately stop the process of releasing these until full investigation is made; and

(e) if so, the details and facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence authorities at Calcutta had seized last year 4 consignments of used mini Colour Labs of "NORITSU" brand, imported by M/s. Shree Krishna International of Calcutta, for alleged under-valuation, before these were cleared by Customs.

(b) The machines not only were declared as second hand and imported under OGL, on physical examination these were also found to be second hand.

(c) to (e) It is not correct that the authorities are trying to release the seized goods under "samadhan scheme" without determining the actual amount of duties and penalties. The factual position is that after investigations, a show cause notice was issued to the importers in December, 1997 in relation to the 4 seized consignments and two consignments which had already been cleared. The case was duly adjudicated by Commissioner in July, 1998 whereunder duties leviable were determined and certain fines and penalties imposed. The importers have contested and filed an appeal against the adjudication order passed by the Commissioner of Customs, Calcutta, in CEGAT, Calcutta. They have also filed a declaration before the appropriate Designated Authority under "Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme 1998", which became operational from 1.9.1998, for settlement of pending dispute and the same is under consideration of the Designated Authority. In the circumstances there is no question of stopping the process of releasing the consignments as the necessary processes of law are already being complied with.

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Cloth

3222. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of cloth in the country; and

(b) the quantum of cloth imported/exported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The production of cloth in the country had been 36,896 million square metre (Provisional) during 1997-98.

(b) The import of cloth during the last three years had been as follows:

Year	Rs. Crores
1995-96	245.35
1996-97	227.29
1997-98 (Provisional)	353.25

Source: DGCI&S

The exports of cloth (cotton, synthetic and woollen) during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Rs. Crores
1995-96	5519.06
1996-97	6005.86
1997-98 (Provisional)	6410.79

Source: The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council

[*English*]

Loan Relief Scheme

3223. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers, rural craftsmen and the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the backward area benefited by the Loan Relief Scheme, particularly in U.P. during each of the last three years;

(b) the total financial assistance provided to Gujarat under the above scheme;

(c) whether cooperative loan recovery has been adversely affected by Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme and it has hampered the recovery situation in general; and

(d) if so, the action taken to bring improvement in loan recovery system of cooperative institutions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990, formulated by the Government of India was a one-time measure and the scheme came to an end on 31 March 1991 in all States and Union Territory Administrations, except Assam and Jammu & Kashmir where it ended on 30 June 1991. Final settlement of the claims were made and the scheme was treated as closed on 31 March, 1995. Beneficiaries under the scheme included farmers, rural craftsmen and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and backward area and the total number of beneficiaries throughout the country was 22266105 of which 4181315 beneficiaries were from the State of Uttar Pradesh. The total financial assistance under the ARDR Scheme provided to Gujarat through cooperatives and Regional Rural Banks was to the tune of Rs. 341.79 crores.

(c) and (d) The loan waiver schemes adversely affect the recovery climate in the country. Measures initiated by the Reserve Bank of India for improving the recovery performance of the banks include issuing of guidelines to banks for strengthening and gearing up of organisational structure both at controlling offices and field level branches, adopting schematic approach for lending toning up of pre-lending appraisal systems, post-lending supervision techniques, creation of Recovery Cells for a cluster of nearby branches, observance of non-public business working day, etc.

Stagnation in Coal Survey Laboratory, Jorhat

3224. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to financial crunch, the Coal Survey Laboratory located at Jorhat in the North East has reached a stagnation stage over the years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) According to information received from Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, under whose jurisdiction the unit falls, not enough work is being generated for the Coal Survey Laboratory, Jorhat. CFRI are, therefore, considering a proposal to merge this unit with the Regional Research Laboratory at Jorhat.

[*Translation*]

Non Banking Financial Company

3225. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Akash India Finance Company located in Govind Nagar, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh had duped several investors by giving allurements of doubling their money in a very short time;

(b) if so, whether the Government have got investigated this case;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government to check such bogus companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the name of Akash India Finance Company does not appear in the Bank's mailing list of its Regional Office, Lucknow under whose jurisdiction Kanpur falls. The RBI has further reported that the company has neither applied for grant of Certificate of Registration under Section 45-IA, of the RBI Act, 1934 nor was registered with the Registrar of Companies in the State of Uttar Pradesh. Enquiries made by the RBI further revealed the non-existence of the company in the area. The RBI, therefore, reported that the entity appears to be an unincorporated body.

(d) the unincorporated bodies, which accept deposits in violation of the provisions of Chapter III-C of the RBI Act can be prosecuted under the provisions of RBI Act. The State Governments have been concurrently empowered to sue the wrong doers.

[English]

RBI Guidelines on ALMS

3226. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has issued any guidelines on Asset Liability Management System (ALMS) in banks;

(b) if so, the time by which the system is likely to be introduced: and

(c) the extent to which this system is likely to be helpful in functioning of banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to introduce Asset Liability Management (ALM) System, as part of Risk Management and Central Systems in banks. Accordingly, RBI has issued draft guidelines for management of liquidity risk and interest rate risk for putting in place the ALM System and have circulated the same to banks to study and forward their suggestions and difficulties, if any, they may encounter in implementation of the ALM System. RBI contemplates the introduction of the system with effect from 1.4.1999 based on the feedback received from the banks.

(c) The broad guidelines issued by RBI would serve the banks to put in place a scientific frame-work for identifying, quantifying and hedging market risks embedded in their balance sheets. It would also facilitate the banks

to reduce volatility in their profitability level and thereby enhance the financial strength of banks.

Appointments in JKD Colliery

3227. SHRI LARANG SAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the names of candidates for the post of Piece Rated Loader were called by the office of Chief Manager of J.K.D. Colliery, District Sarguja, Madhya Pradesh from the Employment Exchange to fill up the vacancies in the coal mining sector under special recruitment drive;

(b) if so, whether interviews for the same were conducted in two phases in August, 1996 but the result of the said interview has not been declared so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to declare the result of the successful candidates in near future;

(e) if so, the time by which the result is likely to be declared;

(f) whether the Government would have a sympathetic approach towards the interviewed candidates who have crossed the maximum age limit required for the said post; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The result of the interview conducted could not be declared because the Old Jhimar Colliery of South Eastern Coalfields Limited, Hasdeo Area had to be closed down due to exhaustion of coal reserve and the surplus workers had to be re-deployed elsewhere.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

(f) and (g) As per policy of the company, there exists a maximum age limit for new entrants and in order to ensure observance of principles of equity and fair play in

the selection process, recruitments have to be guided strictly by the policy norms adopted by the company in this regard. Any relaxation in the upper age limit will become a contentious issue and may lead to reopening of earlier settled cases.

Goods Entry Tax

3228. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sent the proposals to impose goods entry tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to imposition of such tax, the free movement of goods in the country will be affected; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to imposition of such tax?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Assam have sent such proposals.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government of India has advised the State Governments to take effective measures for free and fast movement of goods so that the inter-State trade is not adversely affected because of levy of entry tax. As per Entry 52 of the State List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, State Governments are competent to levy entry tax on non-declared goods.

Waiving of Loans

3229. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to waive of the loan of the flood affected farmers in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received the information from the State Governments

about the total farmers affected with rains and flood in their States;

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

(d) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken so far; and

(e) if not, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fiscal Deficit

3230. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the actual quantified fiscal deficits for the last five years;

(b) the reasons for a big gap in projection and the actual fiscal deficits; and

(c) the steps taken to control the fiscal deficits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The fiscal deficit in the last five years was as under:—

Year	(Rs. crore)
1993-94	60257
1994-95	57703
1995-96	60243
1996-97	66733
1997-98 (RE)	86345

(b) and (c) The increase in the fiscal deficit is due to shortfall in the realisation of non-debt receipts and unavoidable increases in the expenditure during the course of a financial year. Government would endeavour to contain the fiscal deficits by maximising non-debt receipts and controlling expenditure.

Properties seized by I.T. Department*[English]*

3231. SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number, estimated total value, the amount invested and locked up by Government and other details of properties acquired and seized under Section 37(i) of Income Tax Act, as at present in different States and Union Territories;

(b) the details of such properties held for two years and over one year; and

(c) the reasons for keeping such huge properties and investments so locked up for years together, and the steps taken for early release or disposal of such properties?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible.

*[Translation]***Soap Industry**

3232. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cottage soap industry in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh is on the verge of closure due to heavy burden of taxes;

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

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union and State Governments for smooth functioning of this industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As per the report received from the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and State Government of Madhya Pradesh (MP), no cottage soap industry unit in Jabalpur (MP) has been closed.

World Bank Conference

3233. SHRI M. BAGA REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had visited France to attend World Bank's Conference;

(b) if so, the purpose for attending the Conference;

(c) whether he has forcefully putforth the country's case before the World Bank;

(d) the details of the issue discussed there;

(e) the fields for which the Indian Government needed long term financial help; and

(f) the extent to which India's view point has been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) To participate in the Conference on Private Participation in Infrastructure in India as Head of the Indian Delegation.

(d) to (f) The prospects for developing an enabling framework for Private Participation in various Infrastructural Sectors in India was discussed with the participation of representatives of Multilateral Development Banks, Foreign and domestic Investors, Commercial Banks & Financial Institutions. The Infrastructural requirements in India in respect of Roads, Ports, Airports, Telecommunications, Power and Water & Sanitation were discussed in detail. The Conference participants evinced keen interest in the on going policy developments in the above mentioned sectors.

Directive to Central Bank of India

3234. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Patriot Link Workers' Union has submitted a memorandum seeking among other things a directive to the Central Bank of India to release at least 50 per cent of the amount the bank is recovering from

UIPP(L), proprietors of Patriot Newspaper and Link News-Magazine, towards wages/salaries of workers, every month:

(b) if so, whether any directives have been issued to the Central Bank of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) Central Bank of India filed a recovery suit on 21.05.1996 in the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Delhi for realising its outstanding dues of Rs. 21 crores against M/s. United India Periodicals Private Limited (UIPPL) DRT granted injunction restraining M/s. UIPPL from receiving the rental dues from their tenants and the rental dues were allowed to be appropriated towards bank dues. The workers filed a petition before the DRT on 2.7.1996 against the said injunction and for release of wages to them. However, the petition of the workers were dismissed by DRT on 21.08.1996 as it was not maintainable and no directive was issued to Central Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

Liberalisation in Visa to Foreigners

3235. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating seriously to issue visa to tourists and traders immediately after their arrival in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism is formulating its views on a suggestion for granting of visas on arrival to foreign nationals. No time-frame can, as yet, be provided about a decision in this regards as the proposal will require inter-Ministerial consultations and final decision by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

[*English*]

Indian Economy

3236. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the reasons for the slow down of the economy;

(b) the measures have been taken/are being taken to bring back the confidence of entrepreneurs and investors; and

(c) the number of recommendations of the Shanker Acharya Committee relating to investor confidence have been accepted and implemented and the latest position of the remaining recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) There has been a sharp decline in the growth rate of real GDP from an annual average of 7.5 per cent during the preceding three years to 5.1 per cent in 1997-98. The sharp drop in the GDP growth rate during 1997-98 is mainly attributed to the negative growth rate in agricultural value added production (-1.5%) and lower growth in industrial sector (5.5%).

A number of initiatives were announced in the Union Budget 1998-99 to stimulate growth and investment in agriculture, industry and infrastructure. The initiatives concerned rural credit, small scale industry, housing, infrastructure, Fiscal & Public Sector, capital market & Information Technology (IT). Further, measures have been announced in the areas of dis-investment opening up of the insurance sector, investors protection and measures to restore investors confidence.

(c) Some of the main recommendations of the Shanker Acharya Committee relating to investor confidence are:

(i) The listing requirements should be made stringent. The stock Exchanges should be made accountable to defaults and violations committed by the issuers.

(ii) Institutional arrangement for protection of small investor, including more active investor protection fund.

(iii) Better Corporate Governance.

- (iv) Market making has to be encouraged in certain scrips for improving liquidity.
- (v) Primary issues to be made through the depository mode after a specified date.
- (vi) Book Building is to be encouraged in respect of the issues of Rs. 25 crore and above.

Most of these are under various stages of implementation.

[Translation]

Comprehensive Changes in Manufacturing System

3237. SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the changed scenario there is a need for comprehensive changes in the present textile manufacturing system of the country;

(b) whether the Government have made any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the proposals for making certain changes have been received; and

(d) if so, the details of proposals and the reaction of Government in regard to implementation of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) An Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam, containing representatives of industry as well, has been constituted by the Ministry of Textiles vide its resolution of July 24, 1998 to *inter-alia*, evolve a comprehensive policy and strategy for developing human resources in all activities in the textile sector including production technologies, designs, marketing skills and information technology.

The Committee has been asked to submit its report within a period of six months.

[English]

Revival of Mills at Mettur in Tamil Nadu

3238. SHRI K.P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request or proposal to re-open the closed textile mills in Mettur, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the step taken by the Ministry to revive these closed textile mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has established a Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 to tackle problems of sickness of units like the one under reference. Besides, the Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam is engaged in a review of the measures for tackling sickness in the textile industry.

List of Unrestricted Imports

3239. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 340 commodities have been recently included in the list of unrestricted imports;

(b) whether the unrestricted imports have damaged certain small scale industries, producing commodities in huge quantity in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have given highest priority to potato and agro-processing in free trades and foreign investments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir. 340 items were shifted from the Restricted list to the Free list of imports on 13.4.98. List of these 340 items is attached is given the attached statement.

(b) and (c) There has been no adverse impact of allowing import of the said items so far. As per a study recently conducted by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi on the "Impact of Trade Liberalisation on Small Scale Industry in India", it has been found that the gains to the sector due to liberalisation of imports are significant. The sector has been able to improve its competitiveness both in terms of the quality of the product and price, and thereby exports.

(d) and (e) Most of the Food Processing Industries are included in Annexure III of Industrial Policy Statement of 1991 where automatic approval upto 51% of foreign investment is permissible through Reserve Bank of India.

Statement

*To be Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary
Part-II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii)*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

NOTIFICATION NO. 3(RE-98)/97-02
NEW DELHI: DATED THE 13TH APRIL, 1998

S.O. (E):— In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992) read with paragraph 4.1 of Export and Import Policy, 1997-2002, the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997-2002 published on 31st March, 1997 and as amended from time to time. In respect of following Exim Code Nos., policy indicated in columns 3, 4 and 5 shall be amended to read as under.

Exim Code	Item Description	Policy	Conditions relating to the Policy	Import under SIL/Public Notice
1	2	3	4	5
030613 01	Shrimp (scampi) macrobactium frozen	Free		
030613 02	AFD shrimp frozen	Free		
030613 03	Prawns frozen	Free		
030614 00	Crabs	Free		
030619 00	Other including flours, meals and pellets of crustaceans, fit for human consumption	Free		
030629 00	Other, including flours, meals and pellets, of crustaceans, fit for human consumption	Free		
030710 00	Oysters	Free		
030721 00	Live, fresh or chilled	Free		
030729 00	Other	Free		
030739 01	Clams-clam meat (bivivs-victoria spp etc.)	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
030739 09	Other mussels excluding fresh or chilled	Free		
030741 01	Cuttle fish, live, fresh or chilled	Free		
030741 09	Others (including squid, fresh)	Free		
030749 01	Squid tubes frozen	Free		
030749 02	Whole squids frozen	Free		
030749 03	Dried squids	Free		
030749 09	Other squids	Free		
030759 00	other	Free		
030760 00	Snails, other than sea snails	Free		
030791 00	Live, fresh or chilled	Free		
030799 09	Others	Free		
060310 00	Fresh	Free		
060390 00	Other	Free		
060410 00	Mosses and lichens	Free		
060491 00	Fresh	Free		
060499 00	Other	Free		
070990 04	Green Pepper	Free		
071110 00	Onions	Free		
071120 00	Olives	Free		
071130 00	Capers	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
071140 00	Cucumbers and gherkins	Free		
071190 01	Green pepper in brine	Free		
071190 02	Assorted canned vegetables	Free		
071190 09	Vegetables provisionally preserved in brine/in sulphur water/other preservative solution but unsuitable for immediate consumption	Free		
071230 01	Mushrooms (including morels)	Free		
071230 02	Truffles dried	Free		
071290 01	Asparagus dried	Free		
071290 05	Marjoram, oregano	Free		
071290 09	Others, dried	Free		
071410 00	Manioc (cassava)	Free		
071490 01	Sago pith	Free		
080121 00	In shell	Free		
080122 00	Shelled	Free		
080290 09	Others	Free		
081050 00	Kiwifruit	Free		
13019031	Balsam of Tolu/Peru/Copaiba/Gurjan	Free		
130214 00	Of pyrethrum or of the roots of plants containing rotenone	Deleted		
151560 00	Jjoba oil and its fractions	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
151590 02	Chul moogra oil	Free		
151590 03	Mowra oil	Free		
151590 04	Kokam oil	Free		
151590 13	Chillies/capsicum oil	Free		
151590 14	Turmeric oil	Free		
151590 16	Ajwan seed oil	Free		
151590 17	Garlic oil	Free		
170220	Other	Free		
00.90				
170490 01	Sweetmeat	Free		
190220 00	Stuffed Pasta, whether or not cooked or otherwise prepared	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
190230 00	Other Pasta	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
190410 02	Pawa, mudi etc.	Free		
190530 01	Communion wafers sealing wafers etc.	Free		
200830 09	Other citrus fruits prepared or preserved	Free		
200840 00	pears prepared or preserved	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
200850 00	Apricots	Free		
200860 00	Cherries	Free		
200870 00	Peaches	Free		
200880 00	Strawberries	Free		
200899 12	Grapes, prepared or preserved	Free		
200899 13	Apples, prepared or preserved	Free		
200899 14	Guava, prepared or preserved	Free		
200899 19	Other fruits, prepared or preserved	Free		
200911 00	Frozen	Free		
200919 00	Other	Free		
200970 00	Apple juice	Free		
200980 01	Mango juice	Free		
210690 04	Compound preparations for making beverages (non-alcoholic)	Free		
220110 00	Mineral waters and aerated waters	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
220190 09	Other waters (including natural water)	Free		
220210 01	Lemonade	Free		
220210 09	Other than lemonade	Free		
220290	Diabetic beverages including	Free		
00.10	Diabetic Syrup			

1	2	3	4	5
29173905	Trimellitic Anhydride	Free		
29173906	Isophthalic Acid	Free		
The items against EXIM CODES 310390 00 and 310490 00 shall be under State Trading. The canalising agency, MMTC of India Ltd., shall follow the normal commercial practice in regard to import of these items.				
320810 02	Nitrocellulose lacquers	Free		
320810 09	Others	Free		
320820 02	Varnishes	Free		
320820 03	Natural resin enamels	Free		
320820 09	Other paint varnish based on acrylic/vinyl polymer	Free		
320890 02	Synthetic enamel, ultra white paints	Free		
320890 03	Synthetic enamed, other colours	Free		
320890 09	Other paints, varnishes (including enamel & lacquer)	Free		
320910 01	Plastic emulsion paints, all types	Free		
320910 09	Other paints based on acrylic/vinyl polymer	Free		
320990 01	Dispersion paints	Free		
320990 02	Emulsion paints, nes	Free		
321410 00	Glaziers' putty, grafting putty, resin cements, caulking compounds and other mastics; painters' fillings	Free		
321490 01	Non-refractory surfacing preparation for facades, etc.	Free		
321490 02	Adhesive cement	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
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The Exim Code 330130 02 and 330130 03 are replaced by new codes 330130 00 and 330130 01 respectively.

330129 27	Sandal wood oil in bulk form	Free
330129 44	Agar oil	Free
330129 45	Resinoids	Free
330130 00	Resinoids	Deleted
330130 01	Agar oil	Deleted
330190 19	Aqueous distillates of natural perfumes	Free
330499 04	Sindur, bindi, kumkum	Free
330499 05	Turmeric preparation oil types	Free
330520 00	Preparations for permanent waving or straightening	Free
330710 01	Shaving cream	Free
330790 01	Depilatories (soap, other hair removing substances)	Free
330790 09	Others	Free
340111 01	Medicated soaps	Free
340111 03	Toilet soaps other than dental soaps	Free
340290 01.10	Washing preparations (including auxiliary washing preparations) and cleaning preparations, having a basis of soap or other organic surface-active agents	Free

1	2	3	4	5
340290	Cleaning or degreasing	Free		
01.20	preparations, not having a basis of soap or other organic surface-active agents of a kind classified as consumer goods			
340510 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340510 00.20	In consumer packs	Free		
340520 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340530 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340540 00.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340590 01.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
340590 09.10	Of a type classified as consumer goods	Free		
381900 01.10	Brake fluids upto 20 lts in consumer packs	Free		
381900 09	Others	Free		
391810 00	Of polymers of vinyl chloride	Free		
391890 01	Floor coverings of linoxyn	Free		
391890 09	Floor covering etc. of others	Free		
392290 00	Other	Free		
392510 00	Reservoirs, tanks, vats and similar containers, of a capacity exceeding 300 ltrs.	Free		
392520 00	Doors, windows and their frames and thresholds for doors	Free		
392530 00	Shutters, blinds (including Venetian blinds) and similar articles and parts thereof	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
392590 00	Other	Free		
392610 01	Plastics sticker whether or not printed, embossed/impregnated	Free		
392630 01	Cellulose adhesive tapes	Free		
392630 09	Others	Free		
401692 00	Erasers	Free		
401699 03	Rubber bands	Free		
420229 09	Others	Free		
420239 09	Others	Free		
420299 00	Other	Free		
450410 01	Sheets	Free		
450410 02	Slabs	Free		
450410 09	Others	Free		
460110 00	Plaits and similar products of plaiting materials, whether or not assembled into strips	Free		
480260 09.90	Other	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
480910 01	Manifold paper	Free		
480910 09.10	Thermal paper for fax machines	Free		
480910 09.90	Other	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
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The entries at Column No. 3 against heading 48.11 and Exim Code 48111000 shall be deleted.

481121 09	Other self adhesive paper and paperboard	Free
481129 00	Other	Free
481131 00	Bleached, weighing more than 150 g/sq.m.	Free
481139 01	Surface decorated plastic laminated paper	Free
481139 09.90	Others	Free
481140 01	Waxed paper (including waxed manifold paper)	Free
481140 09	Others	Free
481190 01	Hand made paper and paperboard rules lined or squared but not otherwise printed	Free
481190 03	Building board of paper of pulp Impregnated	Free
481190 05	Paper impregnated with chemicals or insecticides (e.g. litmus/DDT coated paper)	Free
481190 06	Raw base paper for sensitising coated	Free
481190 07	Surface marbled paper	Free
481610 00	Carbon or similar copying papers	Free
481620 01	Duplicating papercut to size	Free
481630 00	Duplicator stencils	Free
490700 00.20	All documents of title for use of software issued by software company	Free

1	2	3	4	5
580410 00	Tulles and other net fabrics	Free		
580421 00	Of man-made fibres	Free		
580429 00	Of other textile materials	Free		
580430 00	Hand-made lace	Free		
580610 00	Woven the fabrics (including terry towelling and similar terry fabrics) and chenille fabrics	Free		
580620 00.90	Others	Free		
580631 00	Of cotton	Free		
580639 00	Of other textile materials	Free		
580640 00	Fabrics consisting of warp without weft assembled by means of an adhesive (bolducs)	Free		
580810 00.90	Other	Free		
581010 00	Embroidery without visible ground including Fusible embroidery motiff	Free		
581091 00	Of cotton	Free		
581092 00	Of man-made fibres	Free		
581099 00	Of other textile materials	Free		
630790 00.20	Umbrella cloth panels	Free		
650510 00	Hair-nets	Free		
650692 00	Of furskin	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
670411 00	Complete wigs	Free		
670420 09	Others	Free		
670490 00	Of other materials	Free		
680100 00	Setts, curbstones and flagstones of natural stone (except slate)	Free		
680221 02	Marble monuments	Free		
680790 02	Other articles of asphalt/of similar materials	Free		
681011 01	Cement bricks	Free		
681091 00	Prefabricated structural components of building or civil engineering	Free		
690100 02	Blocks	Free		
690410 00	Building bricks	Free		
690590 00	Other	Free		
690710 00	Tiles, cubes, and similar articles, whether or not rectangular, the largest surface area of which is capable of being enclosed in a square the side of which is less than 7 cm.	Free		
701010 00	Ampoules	Free		
701092 00	Exceeding 0.33 litre but not exceeding one litre except bottles	Free		
701093 00	Exceeding 0.15 litre but not exceeding 0.33 litre except bottles	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
701094 00	Not exceeding 0.15 litre except bottles	Free		
701790 03	Other hygenic glass-ware	Free		
710420 00.90	Synthetic or reworked precious or semi-precious stones other than synthetic ruby, unworked or simply sawn or roughly shaped	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
710490 00	Other	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
711711 00	Cuff-links and studs	Free		
730900 03	Pressed steel tanks	Free		
730900 04	Pressure vessels	Free		
730900 09	Reservoirs, tanks, vats etc. of iron/steel n.e.s.	Free		
731300 02	Twisted hoop/single flat wire barbed or not & loosely twisted double wire used for fencing	Free		
731412 00	Endless bands for machinery, of stainless steel	Free		
731413 00	Other endless bands for machinery	Free		
731419 09	Others	Free		
731442 00	Coated with plastics	Free		
731449 00	Other	Free		
732394 01	Ghamellas	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
741700 01	Oil pressure stove	Free		
741700 09	Other stoves	Free		
741700 19	All other cooking & heating apparatus	Free		
741700 21	Burners of stove	Free		
741700 29	Other parts of stove	Free		
741811 00	Pot scourers and scouring or polishing pads, gloves and the like	Free		
741991 00.10	Other articles of copper, cast, moulded, stamped or forged, but not further worked, of a kind classified as consumer goods	Free		
741999 01.90	Other	Free		
761010 00	Doors, windows and their frames and thresholds of doors	Free		
761090 01	Finished structure	Free		
761210 00	Collapsible tubular containers	Free		
820210 02	Wood working & similar hand saw, all type	Free		
820291 03	Hack saw frames	Free		
820299 00	Other	Free		
820310 00	Files, rasps and similar tools	Free		
820340 01	Perforating punches & pipe cutters	Free		
820340 09	Others	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
820420 00	Interchangeable spanner sockets, with or without handles	Free		
820510 00	Drilling, threading or tapping tools	Free		
820559 02	Metal working hand tools	Free		
820559 03	hand tools of specified uses, such as, watch making tools, goldsmith tools	Free		
820559 09	Other	Free		
820560 00	Blow lamps	Free		
820570 00	Vices, clamps and the like	Free		
820580 01	Anvils & portable forges	Free		
820580 02	Grinding wheels with frameworks hand/pedal operated	Free		
821000 00	Hand-operated mechanical appliances, weighing 10 kg or less, used in the preparation, conditioning or serving of food or drink	Free		
821195 00	Handles of base metal	Free		
821210 01	Twin type shaving system	Free		
821210 09	Other razors	Free		
821220 01	Safety razor blades	Free		
821220 02	Safety razor blade blanks, in strips	Free		
821220 03	Disposable cartridge blade	Free		
821490 01	Handles of cutlery of base metal	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
830130 00	Locks of a kind used for furniture	Free		
830300 00	Armour or reinforced safes, strongboxes and doors and safe deposit lockers for strong-rooms, cash or deed boxes and the like, of base metal	Free		
830890 03.90	Other	Free		
830990 01	Aluminium caps, seals capsules & closures	Free		
830990 02	Seals of all kind (including mechanical seals)	Free		
830990 09	Others	Free		
841420	Hand operated air pumps	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
841911 01	Non-electrical (domestic type)	Free		
841919 01	Non-electrical (domestic type)	Free		
842440 00	Bonpet fire extinguisher	Free		
844711 01	Hand-knitting machines for wool	Free		
844712 01	Hand knitting machines for wool	Free		
844712 19	Knitting machines, n.e.s.	Free		
844720 01.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
844720 09.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
844720 11.10	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
844720 19.10`	Flat knitting machines of the domestic type	Free		
847190 07	VGA Monitor	Deleted		
847190 08	CGA Monitor	Deleted		
847970 00	Garbage Compactor	Free		
850440 05	Electrical inverters having automatically controlled variable frequency and variable voltage	Free		
850680 02	Nickel-cadmium, chargeable (pencil battery)	Free		
850720 00	Other lead-acid accumulators	Free		
850730 00	Nickel-cadmium	Free		
850740 00	Nickel-iron	Free		
850750 00	Lithium Iodine battery	Free		
850780 00	Other accumulators	Free		
850930 00	Kitchen waste disposers	Free		
852320 04	CD Recordable	Free		
85249909.6	Stamper for CD Audio, CD Video & CD-Rom	Free		
852540 00	Video camera/Camcorders	Free		
853931 00.10	Compact fluorescent lamps	Free		
853931 00.20	Triphosphor energy efficient fluorescent lamps	Free		
853931 00.90	Others	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
853990 01	Parts of fluorescent tube lamps	Free		
871190 01	Side cars	Free		
871610 00	Trailers and semi-trailers of the caravan type, for housing or camping (non-motorised)	Free		
871620 00	Self-loading or self-unloading trailers and semi-trailers for agricultural purposes	Free		
871631 00	Tanker trailers and tanker semi-trailers	Free		
871639 00	Other	Free		
871640 06	Other trailers and semi-trailers	Free		
871680 01	Hand propelled vehicles (e.g. handcarts, rickshaws etc)	Free		
880400 00	Parachutes (including dirigible Parachutes and paragliders) and rotochutes; Parts thereof and accessories thereto	Free		
900190 01	Optical calcile crystal	Free		
900311 00	Of plastics	Free		
900319 00	Of other materials	Restricted		Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
903289 05	Voltage stabilizer (other than domestic type)	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
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The entry "Import of wrist watches above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)" against Exim Code 91.01 and 91.02 shall be deleted.

910111 00	With mechanical display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910112 00	With opto-electronic display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910119 00	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910121 00	With automatic winding	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910129 00	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910191 01	Pocket watches	Restricted	Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)	

1	2	3	4	5
910191 09	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910199 01	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910199 09	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910211 00	With mechanical display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910212 00	With opto-electronic display only	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910219 00	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	

1	2	3	4	5
910221 00	With automatic winding	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910229 00	Other	Restricted	However, import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted freely	
910291 01	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910291 09	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910299 01	Pocket watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910299 09	Other watches	Restricted		Import above Rs. 35,000/- (CIF) per unit is permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
910610 00	Time-registers; Time-recorders	Free		
910620 00	Parking meters	Free		
910690 00	Other	Free		
910990 00	Other	Free		
940330 01	Cabinetware	Free		
940330 09	Others	Free		
940340 00	Wooden furniture of a kind used in kitchen	Free		
940350 01	Bed stead	Free		
940350 09	Other wooden furniture used in bedroom	Free		
940360 00	Other wooden furniture	Free		
940370 00	Furniture of plastics	Free		
940410 00	Matress supports	Free		
940421 00	Of cellular rubber or plastics, whether or not covered	Free		
940429 00	Of other materials	Free		
940430 00	Sleeping bags	Free		
940500 09.10	Prefabricated housing material	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
950100 01	Wheeled toys designed to be ridden, etc.	Free		
950210 01	Dolls of wood	Free		
950210 02	Dolls of metal	Free		
950210 03	Dolls of plastic	Free		
950210 09	Others	Free		
950310 00	Electric trains, including tracks, signals and other accessories therefor	Free		
950330 00.10	Educational games and functional/technical toys/models/kits	Free		
950330 00.90	Other	Free		
950430 01	Carrom board (whether or not with coins & strikers)	Free		
950440 00	Playing cards	Free		
950490 01	Chess set, all type	Free		
950490 09	Others	Free		
950510 00	Articles for Christmas festivities	Free		
950590 01	Maghal equipments	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
950590 09	Others (carnival & entertainment articles etc.)	Free		
950662 04	Foot ball	Free		
950662 05	Volley ball	Free		
950662 06	Basket ball	Free		
950662 09	Others	Free		
950669 03	Rugby Ball	Free		
950669 04	Cricket ball	Free		
950669 09	Others	Free		
950699 01	Badminton shuttle cocks	Free		
950699 03	Cricket requisites	Free		
950699 04	Football requisites	Free		
950699 05	Hockey sticks and blades	Free		
950699 06	Polo sticks including blades, shafts & heads	Free		
950699 07	Sports nets	Free		
950800 00.10	Amusement park equipment	Free		
960390 00	Other	Free		

1	2	3	4	5
960400 00	Hand sieves and hand riddles	Free		
960899 01	Pen holders & similar holders	Free		
960910 00	Pencils and crayons, with leads encased in a rigid sheath	Free		
960990 01	Slate pencils	Free		
960990 09	Other pencils	Free		
960990 11	Pastels, drawing charcoals and writing or drawing chalks and tailors chalks	Free		
961100 00	Date sealing or numbering stamps and the like (including devices for printing or embossing labels), designed for operating in the hand; Hand-operated composing sticks and hand printing sets incorporating such composing sticks	Free		
970400 00.10	Used postal stamp	Free		
970400 00.20	Used or unused first day covers for philatelists	Free		
970400 00.90	Others	Free		

This issues in public interest.

Sd:
(N.L. LAKHANPAL)
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE
AND EX. OFFICIO
ADDITIONAL SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Copy to all concerned;

By Orders etc.,

Sd/-
(RAJAN SUDESH RATNA)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

CBI Investigation against MS Group

3240. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has dropped investigation in the case of MS shoes Group of Companies and its promoter;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the money lost by small investors has been recovered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by Central Bureau of Investigation a complaint under Section 68 of the Companies Act, 1956, has been filed in the Court of ACMM, 3rd Court, Esplanade, Mumbai on 10.9.98 against M/s. M.S. Shoes (East) Ltd., New Delhi and Shri Pawan Sachdeva, CMD of M/s. M.S. Shoes (East) Ltd. A final report under Section 169 read with 173 of Cr.P.C. in respect of allegations under Sections of Indian Penal code and Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 has also been filed in the Court on 28.9.98 and accepted by the Hon'ble Special Judge, Mumbai.

(c) and (d) On March, 6, 1995 SEBI directed that the company refund the application amount to any investor wanting to withdraw from the issue. After the issue failed, the company refunded an amount of Rs. 52.34 crores to the subscribers to the issue.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

3241. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite being ranked among the top vegetable and fruits producers in the world, India exports only one per cent of the total produce;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of fruits and vegetables?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) India is the second largest producer of fruits and vegetables in the world. However, the total quantity of fruits and vegetables exported accounts for less than 1% of the production. Some of the reasons for the low exports are lack of appropriate technology for enhancement of shelf life, inadequate post harvest infrastructure facilities such as cold storages, etc. and poor handling due to which considerable quantity of the produce are damaged and lost.

(c) Some of the steps taken to promote exports of horticulture products such as fruits and vegetables are:—

(i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;

(ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;

(iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);

Pending Pension Cases

3242. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5603 dated July 24, 1998 regarding pending pension cases and state:

(a) whether the Government have since collected the information from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the beneficiaries of Family Pension referred to in Part (c) of the Question have since been got the amount of Family Pension and the arrears thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make the long pending payment of Family Pension alongwith the arrears expeditiously to the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Based on the information made available by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, replies to the issues raised in the Unstarred Question No. 5603 dated July 24, 1998 were laid on the Table of the House on December 7, 1998. A copy thereof is enclosed as Statement.

Statement*Schedule*_____ *Session, 1998 of the Lok Sabha**Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure Date of fulfilment* _____

Sl.No. & Date	Subject	Promise Made	How fulfilled	Reasons for delay
USQ No. 5603 dated 24-7-98 by Shri Venkatesh Naik, M.P.	PENDING PENSION CASES IN OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL (A&E) I, MAHARASHTRA. Asking for: (a) the number of cases in respect of claims for family pensions pending with the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, (A&E-I) Maharashtra as on date; (b) since when these cases are pending and the reasons for their pendency; (c) whether the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, (A&E-I) Maharashtra has received letters bearing Nos. B.Adm. I 35(1)/74, dated November 21, 1995 dated B.Adm.-I/35(1)/74-Pt-II, dated June 15, 1998 from the office of the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Mumbai; (d) if so, the action taken by the Audit-Department thereon; (e) the reasons for abnormal delay in finalising these cases; and (f) the time by which pending cases are likely to be disposed of?	(a) to (f): The information is being collected by the CAG of India and will be laid on the Table of the House.	Statement furnishing the information is annexed.	The assurance is being fulfilled within the prescribed period of three months.

*Pending Pension Cases in Office of the Accountant General
(A&E) I, Maharashtra*

The information called for in the said question is as under:—

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| (a) | the number of cases in respect of claims for family pensions pending with the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, (A&E-I) Maharashtra as on date; | According to the information furnished by the Office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India, 232 family pension cases were pending finalisation in the office of the Accountant General (A&E-I), Maharashtra as on 21st July 1998. |
| (b) | Since when these cases are pending and the reasons for their pendency; | An age-wise analysis of the pending cases, along with the reasons for pendency furnished by the office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India is as follows: |

S.No.	Extent of pendency	Number of cases	Reason for pendency
1.	Less than 45 days	160	These cases fall within the permissible period of 45 days normally required to process a pension case provided all the prescribed documents are made available, complete in all respects, by the sanctioning authorities.
2.	45 days to one year	46	These cases were reported to be pending because of non-availability of relevant documents relating to nominations, succession certificates, Family particulars, etc. from the concerned controlling officers of the State Government Departments, notwithstanding the fact that the cases were pursued/ followed up with the concerned State Government authorities by the office of the Accountant General (A&E-I), Maharashtra.
3.	One to two years	23	
4.	Two to five years	3	
(c)	whether the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, (A&E-I) Maharashtra has received letters bearing Nos. B.Adm. 1 35(1)/74, dated November 21, 1975 and B.Adm.-I/35(1)/74-Pt-II, dated June 15, 1998 from the office of the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Mumbai;		It has been reported by the office of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India that the Regional Labour Commissioner's letter dated November 21, 1975 does not appear to have been received in the office of the Accountant General (A&E-I), Maharashtra. The letter dated June 15, 1998 had, however, been received.
(d)	if so, the action taken by the Audit-Department thereon;		On receipt of the letter dated June 15, 1998 relating to the family pension case of Smt. Basanti Devi, W/o Late Shri Bhagat Ram, Ex-Daftry of the office of the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Mumbai, the case was finalised and necessary authority issued to the Accountant General, Himachal Pradesh on 22-7-98 for issue of necessary authorisation to the Treasury officer at Hamirpur for disbursement of the family pension to Smt. Basanti Devi from this Treasury, as desired by her.
(e)	The reasons for abnormal delay in finalising these cases; and		Please refer to the reply to part (b), of the question.
(f)	The time by which pending cases are likely to be disposed of?		Expeditious finalisation of family pension cases depends on the timely availability of all prescribed documents and details from the concerned pension sanctioning authorities/controlling officers of the State and Central Governments. It is the endeavour of the Indian Audit & Accounts Department to dispose of family pension cases within a period of one month after receipt of all documents/details from the concerned Government departments.

Trade Relations

3243. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the name of countries which broke their trade relations with India or decided not to cooperate in view of the nuclear tests conducted by India at Pokharan during May last;

(b) the nature of adverse impacts on India as a result of break of said trade relations or decision of non-cooperation with India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to counter the adverse impact?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No country has broken trade relations with India. However, the United States has imposed certain restrictive economic measures under its Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act, of 1994. The restrictive measures announced by Canada, Japan, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherland relate mostly to development assistance or concessional loans.

(b) Though the precise quantification of the economic measures may be difficult, so far the impact has been minimal. The fundamentals of Indian Economy are strong enough to be able to withstand any pressure arising out of economic sanctions.

(c) India has all along maintained that unilateral coercive measures are unjustified, counter productive and impede free flow of trade, technology and capital and have an adverse impact on mutually beneficial economic interaction. Major countries have themselves refrained from imposing bilateral sanctions and within the US itself there has been a substantial rethink on the efficacy of unilateral measures.

[*Translation*]

SCs/STs in PSUs

3244. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reserved vacancies of SCs/STs in most of the public sector undertakings have not been filled;

(c) whether such vacancies are being filled by making them unreserved; and

(d) if so, the action taken to fill up the reserved quota for SCs/STs in these undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (d) As per the information available representation of SCs and STs in Central Public Sector Enterprises works out to 18.87% and 7.96% respectively as on 1.1.98.

De-reservation of vacancies reserved for SC and ST in Direct Recruitment is banned except in rare and exceptional circumstances in the public interest with the approval of competent authority.

The need to ensure timely filling up of the reserved posts has been stressed in various instructions issued from time to time in the past which also lay down the steps required to be taken in this regard. All Administrative Ministries/Departments have again been requested in October, 1998 to advise the PSUs under their administrative control to take effective steps to fill up the unfilled reserved posts in accordance with the instructions.

[*English*]

Production of Cashew

3245. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare the cashewnut as a plantation crop;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to enhance the domestic production of cashew; and

(d) the financial assistance provided/proposed to be provided for the purpose to Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "Integrated Development of Cashew" assistance is being provided for establishment of nurseries and clonal gardens, taking up fresh plantation of cashew, rejuvenation of old and senile gardens, adoption of production technology,

intensive pest control measures, model demonstrations besides training of farmers. The outlay for the Scheme during the VIIIth Five Year Plan period was Rs. 5800 lakhs. The scheme was continued during 1997-98 with an outlay of Rs. 1600 lakhs and is being continued during 1998-99 with an outlay of Rs. 2000 lakhs.

(d) An assistance of Rs. 671.381 lakhs was provided to Government of Kerala during the period 1992-93 to 1997-98 under the Scheme. The outlay for Kerala during 1998-99 is Rs. 89.30 lakhs.

Extension to Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme

3246. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given extensions to Maharashtra's Monopoly Cotton Procurement Scheme upto year ending 30.06.99 with clear indication that the scheme would not be given further extension;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received a proposal for extension of scheme for the next 10 years for the benefit of farmers; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the details of the final decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra sent proposals to the Government of India, for the extension of the Monopoly Procurement Scheme for Raw Cotton in Maharashtra for a further period of 10 years beyond June, 1998, such proposals including possible benefits to the growers through such extension.

The Government of India approved the continuation of Monopoly Procurement Scheme for raw cotton in Maharashtra, taking into account all relevant factors, for a further period of one year i.e., till 30.06.1999. It was stipulated by the Government of India that there would be no financial commitment on the part of Government of India and that, in the event of cotton prices falling below Minimum Support Prices (MSP) levels, no purchases of cotton would be made by the Cotton Corporation of India in Maharashtra during this period and that Government of Maharashtra was required to take effective steps in the meanwhile to discontinue the Monopoly Procurement Scheme of Raw Cotton with effect from 30.06.1999.

Regarding Fifth Pay Commission

3247. SHRI P. SANKARAN:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand to increase the pay scales of Assistants and UDCs of the Central Government employees;

(b) whether there is also demand for the increase of transport allowance paid to the Central Govt. employees from Rs 100 per month to Rs. 400 per month at the minimum;

(c) if so, the reasons for non-settlement of these two long pending demands of the Central Government employees; and

(d) the alternative package proposed to be offered?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The demands are under consideration of Government in consultation with the nodal Ministries and Departments. Appropriate decisions will be taken having due regard to the likely repercussions in other sectors of Government, the administrative and financial implications, etc.

[Translation]

Import of Agricultural Products from America

3248. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the agricultural items especially Soyabean imported from America are of sub-standard quality;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to conduct quality test of those;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The import of soyabean in split or cracked form has been allowed with effect from 15.10.98.

(b) to (d) US soyabean if imported will be in split or cracked form. It will have to conform to the prevailing plant quarantine norms. Consignments failing to clear/meet quarantine requirements or which endanger human, plant and/or animal health would be denied entry by measures that include prevention of unloading, reshipment, destruction etc.

[English]

British Aided Project in Orissa

3249. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government is providing aid to certain projects in Orissa;

(b) if so, the districts covered under this aid programme;

(c) the total quantum of aid allocated to these districts;

(d) the monitoring and executing agencies for these aided projects; and

(e) by when the implementation of aid programme is expected to commence?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department for International Development (DFID) of the British Government has been providing grant assistance for the following four on-going projects in Orissa:—

Project		Districts covered
1		2
(i)	Orissa Power Sector Reform Project Agreement dated 29.08.96 (valid upto 31.03.2001) for Pounds 64.25 million	Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Khurda and Jaipur, in addition to Bhubaneshwar Capital area
(ii)	Orissa Health & Family Welfare Project Phase-III Stage I Agreement dated 21.08.97 (valid upto 31.10.2000) for Pounds 2.52 million.	Bhadrak and Keonjhar
(iii)	Cuttack Urban Services Improvement Project Phase-II Agreement dated 20.10.97 (valid upto 31.03.2002) for Pounds 12.72 million	Cuttack
(iv)	Reproductive Health (Technical Corporation) Project Agreement dated 27.12.96 (valid for a period of six years) for Pounds 4.998 million.	Bhubaneshwar, Balasore and Cuttack. However, Contraceptive Social Marketing Programme covers whole of Orissa.
(c)	District-wise allocations are not maintained.	

(d)

	Project	Implementing Agency	Monitoring Agency
(i)	Orissa Power Sector Reform Project	Grid Corporation of Orissa (GRIDCO)	Power Department of Government of Orissa, Union Ministry of Power.
(ii)	Orissa Health & Family Welfare Project	Health & Family Welfare Department of Government of Orissa	Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
(iii)	Cuttack Urban Services Improvement Project	Project Management Unit, Cuttack	Housing & Urban Development Department of Government of Orissa, Union Ministry of Urban Affairs & Employment.
(iv)	Reproductive Health (Technical Cooperation) Project	Parivar Seva Sanstha (PSS)	Project Management Unit, Bhubaneswar, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

(e) The implementation of all the four Projects has commenced.

Export of Minerals

3250. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minerals exported during 1997-98 and also the name of minerals which were exported from Gujarat;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide proper system facilities, proper market mechanism and support price to the mineral exporters;

(c) if so, whether any package is proposed to be formulated by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India for encouraging the exporters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sir, the total export of minerals (both processed and bulk minerals) during the year 1997-98 is Rs. 3567 crores (approx.). The minerals which were exported from Gujarat during this period are Bauxite and bentonite exported from Jamnagar and Kutch districts.

(b) The Govt. is granting concessional rates of import duty to the export oriented units for importing machinery, and the income derived by the exporters from the exports of processed ores and minerals is exempted from income tax. The Govt. of Gujarat has set up Gujarat International Trade Promotion Council for providing relevant information to exporters of minerals and has set up Gujarat Export Corporation.

(c) and (d) Export benefits like disclaimer to avail tax benefits under section 80HHC of the Income-tax Act and Special Import Licence is made available to exporters on demand. MMTC also provides secured financial assistance to exporters prior to shipment.

Appointment in ECL

3251. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an interview of successful candidates for appointment to the post of junior Overmen was held in November, 1997 in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons for not declaring the result of aforesaid interview so far;

(c) whether there is acute shortage of junior Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Ltd.;

(d) if so, the number of sanctioned posts of junior Overmen in the company and the number of employees working against these posts;

(e) the number of Junior Overmen retired in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. during the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for making appointments of Junior Overmen and also for safety of mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) An interview for appointment to the post of Overman at Eastern Coalfields Limited was held in November, 1997.

(b) As reported by Coal India Limited, the result could not be declared as the matter is subjudice before the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta.

(c) and (d) Eastern Coalfields Limited has surplus of Overmen. Against the sanctioned strength of 1410, there are 1500 Overmen on the rolls of Eastern Coalfields Limited. There is no separate designated post of Junior Overman.

(e) Total number of Overman retired in last three years is as under:—

Year	No. of Overman Retired
1995-96	26 Heads
1996-97	34 Heads
1997-98	44 Heads

(f) Since there is already a surplus of Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited, question of fresh appointment of Overmen does not arise.

[Translation]

Amendment in the Patent Act

3252. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH:
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE:
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Group of Ministers set up to finalise draft bill for amending 1970 Patent Act was scheduled to be held in Delhi on 16th November, 1998 was adjourned without making any headway; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The meeting of the Group of Ministers set up to consider amendment to the Patent Act, 1970 was held on 11th November, 1998.

[English]

IRS Officers on Deputation

3253. CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI M.C. DHAMOTHARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IRS officers on deputation to various institutions in the country who have completed their tenure and are not being called for;

(b) the number of such officers who are on deputation even after having completed the maximum tenure permissible under the rules;

(c) whether the Government propose to call them back to join their original place of posting; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) 26 (Twenty six). The tenure of the officers deputed to various organisations is governed by the rules regulating the appointment to the posts concerned. Extension in the deputation tenure of such officers is considered and granted by the borrowing

organisations and the CBDT as the lending cadre controlling authority in respect of the Indian Revenue Service only conveys its 'no objection' for extension of tenure of such officers keeping in view the requirements of the Department. Unless the competent authority decides otherwise, under the existing instructions, the officers concerned will revert back to the cadre on the completion of their extended tenure. CBDT permits deputation beyond the normal tenure only in exceptional circumstances.

Cases pending before Debts Recovery Tribunal

3254. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases filed by various Banks and financial institutions pending before the Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore from Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh by the end of September, 1998;

(b) whether there is any proposal to constitute a separate Debts Recovery Tribunal for Andhra Pradesh to expedite the cases of Karnataka at the DRT, Bangalore; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Debts Recovery Tribunal (DRT) Bangalore has reported that up to 30.9.1998, 4971 cases have been filed in this Tribunal by various banks and financial institutions. Out of these, 1656 cases have been disposed off by DRT Bangalore. All these cases relate to the States of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The proposals for establishing DRTs at more places are examined by the Government from time to time after due consideration to operational requirement etc.

Credit to Farmers

3255. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for grant of exemption from compliance of section 11 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for District Central Co-operative Banks to enable farmers to obtain credit; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State Government of

Andhra Pradesh had requested for exemption from compliance of Section 11(1) of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies) in respect of seven District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in Andhra Pradesh. On the recommendation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Government of India have granted exemption to all seven DCCBs.

Ban by EU for Import of Fish

3256. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUÉ:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union proposes to ban import of fish from India because poor labour practice in fish processing;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its impact on export earning of the country; and

(c) the action proposed by the Government to fight back export curbs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The European Union (EU) have not informed Government of India about their intention to impose any ban on the import of fish from India on account of the alleged poor labour practices in fish processing.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

List Released by Germany

3257. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Germany has recently released a list of the countries receiving special assistance;

(b) if so, whether India has not been included in the said list whereas the name of India was at the top of the list of the countries receiving economic assistance;

(c) whether the Government have discussed this issue with the Government of Germany; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the talk held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) According to the latest edition of a "Handbook for Journalists" published by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation & Development of Germany India ranks at number one in terms of cumulative fresh commitments made by the German Government till the end of 1997. However, in response to India's Nuclear Tests the German Govt. cancelled inter-governmental negotiations in May 1998. It is for the German Govt. to take the initiative in resuming the inter-governmental negotiations.

[English]

Export of Leather Products

3258. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of leather and leather products during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the target fixed has been achieved;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Details of targets fixed and achievement made for export of Leather and Leather Products during the last three years are as follows:

(US \$M)

Year	Target	Achievement
1995-96	1780	1752.35
1996-97	1840	1605.82
1997-98	1780	1589.11

(d) Following factors have led to the shortfall in the past three years:

- recession in the international market
- re-emergence of the European market with new production facilities.

— continuous fluctuation in European currencies particularly Deutsche Mark

— stiff competition from the countries like China, Indonesia, Thailand and CIS.

— partial closure of Tanneries in the State of Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and other parts of the country.

Hampers to Handicrafts Exports

3259. SHRI M.R. CHAUDHARI:
SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
DR. RAVI MALLU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's handicrafts industry was unable to cash in on global market opportunities due to infrastructure bottlenecks;

(b) if so, the main features that have hampered the exports of handicrafts; and

(c) the steps being taken to remove hurdles of handicrafts and to give impetus to boost its export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The exports of handicrafts including handknotted carpets have increased from Rs. 1434.38 crores in 1990-91 to the level of Rs. 6457.69 crores (provisional) during 1997-98. The exports of handicrafts have registered an annual growth averaging 24.5% annually since 1990-91. However, as informed by the exporters of handicrafts, they are facing problems due to infrastructure bottlenecks. The problems relate to the availability of uninterrupted power supply in Moradabad; bad road conditions on Delhi - Moradabad highway; non-introduction of Shatabdi Express on Delhi - Moradabad highway; non-availability of air-strip and five star hotel at Moradabad etc.

(c) Various issues relating to infrastructure bottlenecks and other hurdles in the growth of exports are taken up with concerned authorities from time to time and the progress of action taken is reviewed periodically at high level meetings. For improvement of power supply in Moradabad, the Empowered Committee of the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme operated by the Government has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 8.00 crores and an amount of Rs. 6.50 crores has already been released to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Steps

have been initiated by the National Highway Authority of India for improvement of Delhi - Moradabad Highway.

Other steps taken to boost the export of handicrafts include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study team abroad; organisation of buyer - seller meets; organisation of workshops/seminars; participation in international fairs/festivals; organisation of Indian Handicrafts and Gifts fair. etc.

**Removal of Maharashtra from
World Bank Loan List**

3260. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has removed Maharashtra from its top priority status to get the World Bank Loan;

(b) if so, reasons cited by the World Bank;

(c) whether about 10 mega ongoing projects of the state are likely to be affected due to this decision;

(d) if so, the details of such projects;

(e) whether several new proposals are also likely to be delayed;

(f) if so, the details of such projects;

(g) whether the Government are considering to take up the matter with World Bank; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The World Bank approves loans to States based upon their meeting the criteria laid down by the Bank. Government of India have not been informed by the World Bank regarding the status of Maharashtra. World Bank has approved a project viz. Maharashtra Health System Project, for an amount of US\$ 134 million on Dec. 9, 1998. Thus, the question of removing Maharashtra from 'Top Priority' status does not arise.

(b) to (h) Do not arise.

New Tourism Policy

3261. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN:
SHRIMATI SURYA KANTA PATIL:
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI N. DENNIS:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated new policy for Tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of investment on both Government, Private and Foreign Direct Investment alongwith package of fiscal and other incentives proposed under new Tourism Policy;

(d) the details of broad features alongwith major thrust areas thereof;

(e) the details of infrastructural development proposed for promotion of tourism and attract international tourists; and

(f) the details of special status proposed for tourism and accelerate growth of tourists in the country during the current year and next four years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Tourism has prepared a Draft National Tourism Policy. The salient features of the draft Policy are the following:—

1. The Policy emphasises on the involvement of the Union Govt., State Govts., Private and the Public Sector in the development of tourism.
2. It clearly delineates the responsibilities of the Government and the Private sector.
3. It identifies the areas of special interest like North Eastern States, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Island etc.
4. It envisages the development of a dynamic private sector by providing the necessary facilitation services and incentives.

5. It emphasises on the diversification of tourism products including Rural Tourism, Pilgrim Tourism, Eco Tourism, Health Tourism etc.
6. It emphasises on product development including refurbishment of monuments, promotion of fairs and festivals, integrated area development etc.
7. It lays emphasis on the requirement of coordination for infrastructure development including Airport and Air services, Railways, Road Transport, Accommodation, Restaurants and other tourist facilities.

A Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister of Tourism and a Standing Committee of Secretaries for Tourism under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary have already been set up for ensuring effective coordination in the development of tourism infrastructure.

Tourism establishments earning foreign exchange of Rs. 6 crores and above per year have been accorded Export House status alongwith the related incentives like Special Import Licenses etc.

The draft Policy does not set any targets of investment.

[*Translation*]

Community Development

3262. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent on community development by the B.C.C.L. during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 upto October 31, 1998;

(b) the works on which the amount has been spent under the community development during the above period indicating the amount spent on each work;

(c) whether the community development works has also undertaken outside the Dhanbad district of Bihar and Vardhman district of West Bengal;

(d) if so, the details of those works undertaken; and

(e) the justification of the said works undertaken outside the districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The amount spent on community development by the Bharat Coking Coal Limited during 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99 upto 31.10.1998 is given below:—

Year	Amount spent (Rs. lakhs)
1996-97	56.68
1997-98	58.87
1998-99 (upto 31.10.98)	22.56 (provisional)

(b) The details of works done under the community development programme during the above period including balance of work to be done during the current year i.e. 1998-99 and the amount spent are as under:—

Sl. No.	Work done	Amount Paid during		
		1996-97 (Rs.)	1997-98 (Rs.)	1998-99 (Upto 31.10.98)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Construction of Community Centre	11,11,802	4,69,796	Wrok in Progress
2.	Installation of Hand Pump	7,54,854	8,28,712	
3.	Renovation of Pond	88,987	—	

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Construction of Road	11,49,000	13,33,154	Total Expenditure upto 31.10.98 is Rs. 22.56 Lakhs
5.	Construction/Extension of School Building	17,69,186	8,83,800	
6.	Laying of Pipeline for Water Supply	2,35,839	1,18,000	
7.	Electrification in Village	—	16,600	
8.	Medical Camp Organised	30,000	25,000	
9.	Construction of Well	97,693	2,51,868	
10.	Misc. Works	4,30,636	2,50,111	
11.	Spill Over Expenditure	—	17,10,000	
	Total	56,67,997	58,87,041	

(c) No community development work was undertaken by Bharat Coking Coal Limited during the aforesaid period outside the Dhanbad District/Bardhaman District.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

[English]

Sick Mills of N.T.C.

3263. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:
SHRI AJAY KUMAR S. SARNAIK:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sick mills of NTC in the country;

(b) whether the Government have decided to revive 34 mills only;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith their names;

(d) the estimated amount likely to be spent on the revival of these mills;

(e) the details of schemes likely to be formulated by the Government to revive the remaining sick mills; and

(f) the details of improved voluntary retirement scheme for the sick mills of NTC?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Out of 119 mills under NTC, 103 are under the 8 Subsidiaries viz. NTC (APKK&M), NTC (MN), NTC (SM), NTC (DP&R), NTC (Guj.), NTC (UP), NTC (MP) and NTC (WBAB&O). These 8 subsidiaries have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR.

(b) to (f) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study made by NTC, Government is considering a revised turn around strategy for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them, keeping in view the BIFR norm of the networth of these mills turning

positive within the period prescribed by BIFR. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Expansion of ITDC

3264. SHRI M. RAJAIHAH: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITDC has any plans for expansion despite impending sell off; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) With a view to develop tourism, ITDC have decided to construct new hotels at Chandigarh and Anandpursahib, it is considered that pending a decision on the modalities of disinvestment, normal activities required in commercial interest should not be halted.

Tax Holiday Facility to Industrial Units

3265. SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to permit Tax Holiday facility to the industrial units set up in various States including Gujarat under section 80(1)(a) of Income Tax Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) By the Finance Act, 1998, tax-holiday benefits to notified industrially backward districts in states including Gujarat (other than industrially backward states), which was hitherto available to new undertakings set up before 31.03.1999 have been extended to new undertakings set up before 31.3.2000.

This benefit can be availed in respect of notified backward districts of Gujarat. The Dangs is a notified Category 'A' industrially backward district. Banaskantha and Sabarkantha are the other two notified industrially Category 'B' backward districts. A two tier tax benefit is available to such districts.

Notified Category 'A' districts are entitled to a five year tax holiday in the first five years and a 30% deduction (in case of companies) in the subsequent five

years. Notified Category 'B' districts are entitled to a three year tax holiday in the first three years and a 30% deduction (in case of companies) in the subsequent five years from the time they start manufacture or production.

(c) In view of (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Sick PSUs

3266. SHRI H.P. SINGH:
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sell out some more sick public sector undertakings besides eight;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the PSUs;

(c) the benefit to be given to the employees of such PSUs;

(d) whether some trade unions have opposed the move;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have failed to revive these PSUs; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to sell any sick Central PSU.

(b) to (g) do not arise.

[English]

Pay Scale of NTC

3267. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central pattern of fifth pay commission is given to regular staff of N.T.C.;

(b) whether the Central pattern is given to superior in the mills of other subsidiaries of NTC except NTC, Maharashtra (North & South); and

(c) if so, the reasons for not implementing Central pattern to NTC Maharashtra (North & South) mills upto supersessing employees?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The employees of NTC governed by CDA pattern have been allowed the benefit of Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations as approved by the Department of Public Enterprises. The technical and supervisory staff of NTC (Maharashtra North) and NTC (South Maharashtra) are covered under the Bombay Industrial Relations Act and their pay scales and service conditions are those applicable for the Bombay Cotton textile industry settled by the Awards/Agreements on "Region-cum-Industry" basis. Therefore they are not entitled to CDA pattern of scales.

[Translation]

Consumer Advisory Committees

3268. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Consumer Advisory Committees at different levels constituted or propose to be constituted in his Ministry;

(b) the functions of these Consumer Advisory Committees;

(c) whether the Government propose to make them more effective;

(d) if so, whether any work for the welfare of the society is likely to be assigned to these Committees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Seven (7) Regional Coal Consumers Councils have been constituted, one in each coal producing subsidiary of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited. An apex body, the National Coal Consumers Council has also been set up at the Headquarters of Coal India Limited.

(b) These Councils have been set up for redressal of consumers' grievances and monitoring of complaints received from the consumers. In case the complainant does not receive a reply within a month or the complainant is not satisfied with the reply, he may prefer a complaint to the National Coal Consumers Council.

(c) Yes, Sir. Coal Companies have been advised to have the meeting of these Councils regularly.

(d) The purpose of setting of these coal consumer councils is to protect the interest of coal consumers. It is not proposed to assign welfare activity to these councils.

(e) does not arise in view of reply to part (d).

[English]

Construction of Luxury Hotels in South Bihar

3269. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct luxury hotels at the important tourist centres located in South Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct guest houses and ordinary hotels for middle income tourists at the important tourist centres in South Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) ITDC's Annual Plan (1998-99) does not include any scheme/plan for construction of a new hotel in South Bihar—they are already running one hotel in Ranchi in collaboration with Bihar State Tourism Development Corporation.

(b) and (c) The development and creation of tourism infrastructure including Budget accommodation for middle income tourists is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central financial assistance to State Government for identified projects after taking into consideration their *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. During recent

years. Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned the following budget accommodation projects in South Bihar:—

S.No.	Year	Name of the Project
1.	1990-91	Tourist Complex at Hazaribagh (South Bihar)
2.	1991-92	Tourist Complex at Dhanbad (South Bihar)
3.	1991-92	Tourist Complex at Topchanchi (South Bihar)
4.	1994-95	Tourist Complex at Jamshedpur (South Bihar)
5.	1998-99	Upgradation-cum-expansion of existing tourist facilities at Birsa Vihar, Ranchi (South Bihar)
6.	1998-99	Upgradation-cum-expansion of existing tourist facilities at Ratna Vihar, Dhanbad (South Bihar).

Entry of Banks in Insurance Sector

3270. SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI is drawing up guidelines for the entry of nationalised banks and State run banks into the insurance sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Export from Jammu and Kashmir

3271. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of major items exported from Jammu and Kashmir during each of the last three years; and

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Ministry of Commerce maintains Export data for the country as a whole and not state-wise. However, the major items exported from Jammu & Kashmir are carpets, papier mache, wood carving, shawls, walnut and artificial jewellery.

Austerity Measures

3272. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued strict instructions to all Ministries/Departments of Government

of India to reduce the number of employees on their rolls and also to introduce 10 percent mandatory cut on TAs, office expenses, petrol bills etc;

(b) whether these instructions are being implemented by all Ministries/Departments of the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the other steps Government propose to take for its strict compliance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) In the context of the imperative need to reduce establishment expenditure, guidelines were issued on expenditure management, fiscal prudence and austerity to be observed in Ministries and Departments in the Central Government. These guidelines envisage, *inter alia*, some restrictions on filling up vacant posts at the lowest level in the hierarchy, a 10% mandatory cut on non-salary secretariat expenditure i.e. on T.A., office expenses, petrol, oil and lubricants, etc.

Various Ministries/Departments have general adhered to these guidelines. Implementation of these guidelines is monitored by the concerned Financial Adviser and the Deptt. of Expenditure and appropriate remedial action taken.

[Translation]

Cashewnut Board in Maharashtra

3273. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Maharashtra Government to set up a Cashewnut Board in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Liberalisation of Import Policy

3274. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have further liberalised the import policy;

(b) if so, the details of those items for which import policy has been liberalised;

(c) the impact of the liberalised import policy on the domestic small and cottage industries;

(d) whether the domestic industries are likely to be flourished as a result of this import policy; and

(e) if so, the manner in which alongwith the measures to be taken by the Government to protect these industries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has shifted certain items from Restricted List to Free List of Imports and from Canalised to Special Import Licence List. A copy of the relevant Notification No. 25 dated 15th October 1998 issued by the Ministry of Commerce giving details of the items so shifted is attached as Statement.

(c) and (d) The Liberalised Import Policy would result in easy availability of raw materials etc. for a number of items manufactured by Small Scale Sector. This in turn would benefit Small Scale Units in improving their productivity as well as quality of goods.

(e) Custom duties on these imports would provide safeguard to these industries, wherever required.

Statement

*[To be published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary
Part II, Section 3, Sub-Section (ii)]*

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE**

**NOTIFICATION NO. 25 (RE-98)/97-02
NEW DELHI: DATED THE 15TH OCTOBER, 1998**

S.O. (E) — In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 (No. 22 of 1992) read with paragraph 4.1 of Export and Import Policy, 1997-2002 the Central Government hereby makes the following amendments in the ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items 1997-2002(RE-98), and as amended from time to time.

Exim Code	Item description	Policy	Conditions relating to the policy	Import under SIL/Public Notice
1	2	3	4	5
070310 01	Onions fresh or chilled	Free		
120100 00.20	Soyabean seed in split and cracked form	Free		
120500 00.10	Of seed quality	Free	Subject to Quarantine restrictions	
120500 00.90	Other	Free	Subject to Quarantine restrictions	
120600 00.10	Of seed quality	Free	Subject to Quarantine restrictions	
120600 00.90	Other	Free	Subject to Quarantine restrictions	
120791 00	Poppy seeds	Restricted	Import not permitted, to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf subject to the conditions that the importer shall produce a certificate from	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL), however in this case c.i.f. value of the surrendered Special Import Licence (SIL) shall be two times of the c.i.f. value of the imported goods.

1	2	3	4	5
			competent authority of the country of origin that opium poppy have been grown licitly/legally in that country as per requirement of International Narcotics Control Bureau. Import from other countries is Prohibited.	
220900 01	Brewed vinegar	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against special Import Licence (SIL)
220900 02	Synthetic vinegar	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230220 01	De-oiled rice bran	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230220 02	Rice bran-raw	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230220 03	Other by-products from the working of rice	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230500 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of ground-nut expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
230500 02	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of ground-nut solvent extracted variety (defatted)	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230610 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal decorticated expeller variety of cotton seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230610 02	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal decorticated, solvent extracted (defatted) variety of cotton seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230610 03	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal Undecorticated expeller variety of cotton seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230610 04	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal undecorticated solvent extracted (defatted) variety of cotton seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230620 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of linseed expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230620 02	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of linseed solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
230630 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of sunflower seed expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230630 02	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal sunflower seed solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230640 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal expeller variety of rape or colza seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230640 02	oil-cake & oil-cake meal solvent extracted (defatted) variety of rape/colza seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230650 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal expeller variety of coconut or copra	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230650 02	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal solvent extracted (defatted) variety of coconut/copra	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230660 00	Of palm nuts or kernels	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
230670 00	Of maize (corn) gem	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 01	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of mowra seeds expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 02	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of mustard seeds expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 03	Oil-cake & Oil-cake meal of mustard seeds solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 04	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of niger seeds expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 05	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of niger seeds solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 06	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of cardli seed solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
230690 07	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of sesamum seeds expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 08	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of sesamum seeds solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 11	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of mango kernel expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 12	Solvent extracted (defatted) variety solvent extracted (defatted) variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 13	Oil-cake & meal of sal-de-oiled	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 14	Residues babool seed extraction	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 15	oil cake and meal of castor seeds	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
230690 16	Oil-cake of neem seed extraction	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 19	Oil-cake & oil-cake meal of other oil seeds & oleaginous fruits nes expeller variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 29	Oil-cake & other oil-cake meal seeds oleaginous fruits nes solvent extracted variety	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230690 31	Oil residues except dregs	State Trading	Import through State Trading Corporation and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
230990 03.10	Prawn and shrimp feed	Free		
240210 03	Cuban cigars	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
330130 09.10	Flavouring essences - all types (including those for liquors)	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
330190 11.10	Flavouring essences—all types (including those for liquors)	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
330190 21.10	Flavouring essences - all types (including those for liquors)	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
330300 01	Eau-de-cologne	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 10 and above
330300 05	Perfumes containing spirit for retail sale	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 10 and above
330300 09	Spirituous toilet preparations	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 10 and above
330410 00	Lip make-up preparations	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
330420 00	Eye make-up preparations	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided in the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.

1	2	3	4	5
330430 00	Manicure or pedicure preparations	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330491 00	Powders, whether or not compressed	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330491 01	Powder, face	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330491 02	Powder, talcum	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330491 09	Powder, toilet nes	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330499 01	Creams, face	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.

1	2	3	4	5
330499 02	Nail polish/lacquers	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
330499 03	Moisturising lotion	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330499 09	Others	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330510 01	Hair shampoos (spirituous)	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330510 02	Hair shampoos (non-spirituous)	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330530 00	hair lacquers	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.

1	2	3	4	5
330590 01	Hair oil	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330590 02	Brilliantines (spirituous)	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
330590 03	Hair cream	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL) provided the per unit c.i.f. value is US\$ 5 and above.
392310 09.90	Other	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
852390 04	Bank Master Disc (i.e. substrate) for producing stamper for Compact Disc	Free		
910191 01	Pocket watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910191 09	Other watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
910199 01	Pocket watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910199 09	Other watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910291 01	Pocket watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910291 09	Other watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910299 01	Pocket watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910299 09	Other watches	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import above Rs. 5,000/- (CIF) per unit permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
910511 00	Electrically operated	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910519 00	Other	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910521 00	Electrically operated	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910529 00	Other	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910591 00	Electrically operated	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
910599 01	Time pieces	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
910599 09	Others	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911110 00	Cases of precious metals or of metal clad with precious metal	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911120 00.90	Others	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911180 00.90	Other	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911210 00	Cases of metal	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911280 00	Other cases	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911310 00	Of precious metal or of metal clad with precious metal	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

1	2	3	4	5
911320 00.90	Others	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911390 00.90	Others	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911430 01.90	Others	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911430 02	Dials for clocks	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)
911490 00.90	Other	Restricted	Consumer goods - Not permitted to be imported except against a licence or in accordance with a Public Notice issued in this behalf	Import permitted against Special Import Licence (SIL)

This issues in public interest.

Sd/-
(N.L. LAKHANPAL)
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE
AND EX-OFFICIO ADDL. SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA

Copy to all concerned;
By Order etc.

Sd/-
(RAJAN SUDESH RATNA)
JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FOREIGN TRADE

Amendment in Patent Act

3275. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is acceded to the demand of amending the 1970 Patent Act by the US and the European countries in the WTO meeting;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is not a submission to internationally imposed Intellectual Property Rights to the developed country's own advantage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) In order to implement the obligations contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), which is a part of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement, India has time till January 1, 2000 to implement the obligations contained in the Agreement and further time till January 1, 2005 to introduce product patent protection to areas of technologies not protected so far. However, the member countries of WTO, who have opted to avail of the latter period, were required to comply with the obligations contained in Articles-70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPs Agreement with effect from January 1, 1995.

In order to comply with the obligation which came into force from 1st January 1995 and also to comply with WTO rulings in the Indo-US Dispute on Patent Protection for Pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products, Government is exploring different options and strategies.

VRS in Profit Making PSUs

3276. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in profit making public sector undertakings, particularly for those employees who have completed thirty years of service and have been superseded;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c)

The existing Voluntary Retirement Scheme is applicable to all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), including profit making enterprises. Navratna and Mini-Ratna enterprises have been given freedom to frame their own Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Other profit making enterprises also can formulate their own Voluntary Retirement Schemes, with no budgetary support, with the approval of the Government. Under such schemes, the respective PSUs might allow such compensation that may suit individual requirements.

Alleged Corruption in SEBI

3277. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Certificates of Registration as Category-II (Share Transfer Agent) given by SEBI (Delhi) during the last three years;

(b) the total number of cases rejected by the Board with the reasons of rejection thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the functioning and efficiency of SEBI (Delhi) Branch?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) SEBI has given the following details of registration of Category-II Share Transfer Agents by its Northern Regional Office:

Year	No. of Registration	No. of Renewals	No. of cases Rejected
1995-96	10	0	17
1996-97	12	0	20
1997-98	8	6	8
1998-99 (Upto 16.12.98)	1	1	0

The rejections were made for non compliance with the SEBI (Registrars to an issue and Share Transfer Agents) Rules and Regulations, 1993 by the applicants.

(c) Improvement in the functioning and efficiency of SEBI is a continuous process.

Development Commissioner for SSIs

3278. SHRI A.C. JOS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have turned the office of Development Commissioner into a redundant outfit and usurped all its powers in regulating the Industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent to which it has affected the small Scale Industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) In view of the above, the matter does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Handloom Industry Hank Yarn Production

3279. DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of share of handloom industry in the total textile manufactured, the percentage of employees in the handloom industry out of the total employees working in entire textile industry;

(b) whether the yarn manufacturing units have been issued orders to manufacture 50 percent of the total hank yarn production for smooth functioning of the handloom industry;

(c) whether the Government have recently changed the said order; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The production of handloom fabrics during 1997-98 is 7862 (provisional) million sq. mtrs. which comes to nearly 23% of the total cloth production in the country. The employment in the handloom sector is estimated at 124.00 lakh which is 58.44% of the total employment generated in the entire textile industry.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Iron Ore by MMTC

3280. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron ore exported by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) whether the MMTC has laid emphasis on boosting export of iron ore during the Ninth Five Yer Plan;

(c) if so, the target fixed by the MMTC for export of iron ore and the achievements made during the Eighth Plan Period;

(d) the details of the countries to which iron ore is being exported at present; and

(e) the details of those countries with which agreements have been entered into for export of iron ore?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sir, the quantum of Iron ore exported by MMTC during the eighth plan period 1992—97 and the foreign exchange earned thereon are as under:

Year	Quantity (Lakh Tonnes)	Value
1992-93	106.32	658.94
1993-94	106.06	632.60
1994-95	120.01	660.80
1995-96	111.46	685.40
1996-97	99.29	684.50

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Sir, the figures of the target fixed by MMTC and performance thereof during the Eight Five Year Plan are

as under:

Year	Target	Performance (Value in Rs. Crores)
1992-93	806	658.94
1993-94	668	632.60
1994-95	586	660.80
1995-96	697	685.40
1996-97	741	684.50

(d) At present iron ore is being exported to Japan, South Korea, China, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Romania.

(e) Particulars of the countries with which agreements have been entered into for export of iron ore are as under:

Japan: For Five Year Long Term Sale Contract from 1.4.1996 to 31.3.2001.

(3.5-7.6 million tonnes lumps and fines per annum)

South Korea: For Five Year Long Term Sale Contract from 1.4.1996 to 31.3.2001.

(2.3 million tonnes lumps and fines per annum)

Pakistan: For Five Year Long Term Sale Contract from 1.9.97 to 31.8.2002.

(4 million tonnes lumps and fines per annum with annual quantity being about 8 lakh tonnes)

Under these agreements, quantity range for supply of each grade of iron ore from India is committed on annual basis. Specific quantity to be supplied each year and prices for the year are decided annually based on the ruling market price.

Export to China, United Arab Emirates and Romania is made on Spot Contract basis.

Performance of Mints

3281. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the minting units in the country are minting the coins to their full capacity;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to utilise the full capacity of these units;

(d) whether there is shortage of one rupee, two rupee and five rupee denomination coins at present in the country as compared to their demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) to (e) There is general shortage of coins in the country owing to limited capacity of the Mints and Coinisation of Rupee notes of 1, 2 & 5. With a view to augmenting the minting capacity, the Mints at Calcutta and Mumbai are being modernised. A new Mint at Cheralapally near Hyderabad has already been commissioned. It is also proposed to run a second shift in Noida Mint. As a short-term measure, Government imported seven hundred (700) million pieces of rupee 1 and three hundred (300) million pieces of rupee 2 coins during 1997-98 and is importing the same quantity during the current year to improve the availability of the coins.

[English]

Investment by FIs in Industries

3282. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the capital investment by Financial Institutions (FIs) in the sick industries of the country has gone useless and unproductive;

(b) if so, the total amount of capital lying useless and unproductive in the small, medium and big industries, invested by banks and other financial institutions by the end of June, 1998; and

(c) the future plan of the Government to put this capital again in the productive sector?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India

(IDBI) has reported that some of the units in the portfolio of financial institutions (FIs) have turned sick due to various reasons viz., Industrial recession, competition from imports, high cost etc. All possible options are explored to nurse the sick units back to health and make the capital productive. Position in respect of sick units in the portfolio of FIs as at end March, 1998 is given below:

(Rs. crore)

Institution	No. of cases	Outstanding Assistance
IDBI	725	3228
IFCI	370	1040
ICICI	155	202
IIBI	349	317

In addition, Bank credit outstanding against sick units as on 31st March 1997 (latest available) is Rs. 12,223 crore.

(c) FIs take necessary steps in terms of schemes sanctioned by BIFR and RBI guidelines to nurse these sick units back to health and make the capital productive. A number of sick units are in operation and they meet a part of their debt servicing obligations to the financial institutions. Need based packages of reliefs/concessions are devised to ensure restoration of long term viability of these sick companies. It is only after all options of reviving a sick company are found infructuous that the FIs take recourse to legal action which also leads to salvage of FIs investment in sick units by way of sale of assets.

[Translation]

Performance of Industries

3283. DR. ASHOK PATEL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to identify certain major industries to monitor their performance;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up a monitoring machinery for implementing policy and projects pertaining to these industries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Programme Implementation has been identified as the Nodal Agency. To start with, private/joint sector infrastructure projects in the Civil Aviation, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Mines Power, Telecommunications and Surface Transport sectors would be taken up for monitoring.

[English]

Upliftment of Weavers

3284. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI RAMSHAKAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of handloom units lying closed in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have conducted any study in regard to the implementation of the scheme sponsored for the upliftment of handloom weavers in the States and the proper utilisation of the amount provided to various States for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware of the inordinate delay being caused by State Government in releasing said amount for various schemes relating to the handloom weavers inspite of receiving funds from the Union Government;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of the guidelines issued to the State Governments for improving the miserable condition of handloom weavers; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for improving their condition?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Handlooms is a cottage and household activity and is highly dispersed, State-wise figures of closed handlooms are not maintained at the Centre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Studies were conducted to assess the working of Handloom Development Centres (HDC) and Market Development Assistance (MDA) schemes. Assessment made under these Studies have generally indicated socio-economic improvement in the condition of weavers, and the suggestions made in the studies are being implemented through the schemes.

(d) and (e) Wherever such delays have been brought to the notice of the Central Government, the matter has been taken up at appropriate level for expediting releases of financial assistance.

(f) and (g) State Governments have been repeatedly requested to take advantage of the development scheme with a view to ameliorate the condition of handloom weavers. The viable proposals received from the State Governments are promptly attended to.

Regional Office of Oriental Insurance Corporation

3285. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open Regional Office-II of the Oriental Insurance Corporation Limited in Delhi in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any site has been selected for the purpose;

(d) the time by which the New Regional Office is likely to start functioning; and

(e) the details of total Regional Offices of the Oriental Insurance Corporation Limited in the country alongwith their location?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Oriental Insurance Company Limited has reported that their company's Board has approved 2nd Regional Office at Delhi. Present Regional Office at Delhi has completed a premium of Rs. 206 crores in 1997-98 and is controlling 62 operational offices and satisfies the norms for having an additional Regional Office.

(c) It is proposed to start New Regional Office, as and when opened, from their existing premises.

(d) The New Regional Office is likely to start operations from 1st April, 1999.

(e) Total number of existing Regional Office is 18 and their location is as under:—

Name of R.O.	Location
R.O.-I Mumbai	Mumbai
R.O.-II Mumbai	Mumbai
R.O. Pune	Pune
R.O. Indore	Indore
R.O. Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
R.O. New Delhi	New Delhi
R.O. Chandigarh	Chandigarh
R.O. Jaipur	Jaipur
R.O. Lucknow	Lucknow
R.O. Ghaziabad	Ghaziabad
R.O. Calcutta	Calcutta
R.O. Patna	Patna
R.O. Guwahati	Guwahati
R.O. Bhubaneshwar	Bhubaneshwar
R.O. Chennai	Chennai
R.O. Bangalore	Bangalore
R.O. Cochin	Cochin
R.O. Hyderabad	Hyderabad

TAFCO

3286. SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tannery and Footwear Corporation Limited does not have any title over its purported immovable properties; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) The conveyance deed in respect of the immovable properties has not been executed in favour of Tannery and Footwear Corporation Limited (TAFCO) as the British India Corporation (BIC) had mortgaged the immovable properties with State Bank of India (SBI) as security for the loans it had taken from the Bank. However, TAFCO has undisturbed and uninterrupted possession of the properties since 1969 and has been exercising all rights of ownership over these properties.

Protection of Indian Patent

3287. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a new law to protect Indian Patents; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for early protection of national interest by interaction between the scientific establishments industries and Educational Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) In India the grant of patents is governed by the Patents Act, 1970 which provides protection for Indian patents also.

In order to implement certain obligations contained in the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) which is a part of World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement, certain transitional arrangements are available to India. The government is exploring different options and strategies to fulfil the same in consultation with the organisations concerned.

Procurement of Cotton by NTC

3288. SHRI VAIKO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government will direct all the NTC and cooperative spinning mills to procure cotton from the Cotton Corporation of India to avoid corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the Government are considering about yarn sales of NTC by cooperative spinning mills to be channelised through State cooperative societies to handloom weavers throughout India?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The NTC mills, except those under NTC (TN&P) and NTC APKK&M, have been directed not to purchase cotton from private traders. NTC(APKK&M) and NTC(TN&P) have been allowed with effect from 15.1.96 the flexibility to buy 60% of their total requirement of cotton from Cotton Corporation of India and State Cotton Federations and the condition stipulated earlier regarding minimum of 50% of purchase from Cotton Corporation of India was withdrawn. These two subsidiaries were also asked to ensure that their purchase from private traders was limited to 40%. No directions have been issued or is proposed to be issued on procurement of cotton by Cooperative Spinning Mills from Cotton Corporation of India.

(d) No, Sir.

Pending Income Tax Cases

3289. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the expected total income tax arrears in the country during the current financial year, till date, and the number of cases pending in the court;

(b) the measures taken to reduce the number of pending litigations; and

(c) the action proposed to expedite their realisation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The total expected income tax arrears during the current financial year cannot be estimated as such. However, the total arrear demand of Income Tax and Corporate Tax as on 31.3.98 is Rs. 45073.39 crores and the total outstanding demand as on 30th September, 98 is Rs. 37796.29 crores. As on 31.3.98, the number of cases pending in High Courts and Supreme Court are 54396 and 7788 respectively.

(b) The measures taken to reduce the number of pending litigations include bunching of cases in Supreme Court and High Courts for early hearing, meeting with concerned Chief Justices for expediting the disposal of cases, the Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme etc.

(c) Apart from normal statutory process of recovery, the Department is constantly monitoring the progress in Dossier cases involving high demands. A Task Force has been constituted to strictly monitor revenue collection. Computerisation of Arrear Demand Registers will also boost up collection in respect of smaller demands. It is expected that the total outstanding arrear demand as on 31.3.99 will be lower than the outstanding arrear demand as on 31.3.98 because of 'Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme' and recovery measures being taken all over the country.

Export by STC

3290. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main items exported with its quantity and value by State Trading Corporation under canalised and non-canalised categories during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the performance of STC is not upto the mark;

(c) if so, whether the Government have reviewed the performance of STC;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) A statement showing year-wise non-canalised items exported by State Trading Corporation during the last three years is attached. No export item was canalised through STC during the period.

(b) to (e) The turnover of STC is steadily increasing during the last three years as given under:

(Rs. Crores)

1995-96	1685
1996-97	2525
1997-98	2867

The performance of STC is normally reviewed in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed annually and the corrective steps taken, wherever required, the overall performance of STC is also evaluated at the end of every year by the Department of Public Enterprises.

Statement

STC : Export Sales during 1995-96 to 1997-98

Value: Rs. Crores
Qty : 000' MTs in Brackets

Exports	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1	2	3	4
<i>Non-canalised</i>			
Extractions	82.10 (126)	200.46 (236)	151.60 (195)
Foodgrains (Wheat)/ Maize/pulses	19.35	57.32	21.38
Castor Oil/Seeds	29.62	45.16	25.29
Jute Goods	16.17	18.01	17.50

1	2	3	4
Rice	129.12 (147.7)	50.82 (48)	20.10 (22)
Sugar	17.34 (15)	47.17 (32)	15.67
Cashew	35.13	19.47	25.32 (1.4)
Coffee	29.53	12.90	22.49 (3)
Tea	5.24	8.60	3.24 (0.3)
Engg./Const. Materials	54.80	15.15	7.07
Chemicals & Durgs	33.44	14.54	8.00
Meat & Marine Products	1.56	1.31	—
Fresh & Processed Foods	6.49	4.82	3.30
Textile/RMG/Coir	21.71	3.80	3.96
Consumer Products	6.59	0.36	5.04
Sports Goods	5.42	—	—
Leatherware	40.72	5.24	2.41
Others	8.98	7.78	6.40
Total Non-canalised*	543.31	512.91	338.77

*Excluding exports under off-shore and counter trade.

Note : Quantity details have been given, wherever available.

*[Translation]***Industrial Policy**

3291. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the desired results are not being achieved in industrial sector after starting the process of liberalization in the country;

(b) whether the Government have identified the bottlenecks in the implementation of industrial policies framed by the Union and State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to remove the bottlenecks so that more and more industries could be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (d) The Government is committed to a policy of promoting investment and industrial growth. The Industrial Policy of the Government is aimed towards building on the gains already made, maintaining sustained growth in production and gainful employment.

The number of industrial investment intentions recorded between August 1991 and October 1998 exceeds 37 thousand, with proposed investment of approximately Rs. 745 thousand crores, and proposed employment of about 67 lakh persons. In the same period, the amount of foreign direct investment which has been approved was approximately Rs. 175 thousand crores.

Review of the industrial policy, procedures and their implementation is an on-going process. The recent measures include de-licensing of industries including coal, lignite, petroleum (other than crude) and its distillation products and sugar, expansion of the list of the high priority industries for automatic approval for foreign equity, expansion of activities for non banking financial services, allowing multilateral financial institutions to contribute upto 40% equity in private sector banks and various other measures for simplification of procedures etc.

*[English]***Export of Flowers**

3292. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the quantity

and value of flowers exported during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): The value of flowers exported during the last three years are as follows:—

	Value (Rs. Crores)
1995-96	46.49
1996-97	50.43
1997-98	75.17

(Source : APEDA)

The details of quantity of flowers exported are not available.

Procedure Followed in FIPB

3293. SHRI GIRAJALA VENKAT SWAMY NAIDU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board takes note of views of various Ministries on every application;

(b) if not, the system of deliberation in FIPB;

(c) the details of various Ministries which find a place on the Foreign Investment Promotion Board;

(d) the criterion fix for inclusion of various Ministries in FIPB;

(e) whether the Government have received any protests on employment curtailing in foreign investment proposals; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) Yes, Sir. Views of the Ministry(ies) that are administratively concerned are taken note of by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) while considering Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals.

(b) does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Secretaries of the following Ministries/ Departments are permanent members on the Board:

(i) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion-Chairman.

(ii) Ministry of Finance

(iii) Ministry of Commerce

(iv) Ministry of External Affairs
(External Relations)

(v) Department of Revenue

(vi) Central Board of Excise & Customs
(Chairman)

(vii) Department of Small Scale Industries & Agro
and Rural Industries.

In addition to the above. Secretaries of Ministries/ Departments to which the proposal relates are specially invited to participate in the deliberations.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. No specific protest of this nature has been received.

Non-Banking Financial Companies

3294. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the RBI Act, 1934 to regulate the Non-Banking Financial Companies;

(b) if so, the details of proposed amendments;

(c) by when the Act is likely to be amended; and

(d) the extent to which the amended Act likely to help the investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) The Task Force on Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), which has recently submitted its report, has suggested a number of legislative measures to improve the regulatory framework for NBFCs. These, *inter-alia*, include appointment of depositors' grievance redressal committees, giving the status of a court decree to the orders of such authorities and statutorily creating a first charge on liquid assets of NBFCs in favour of depositors. These recommendations have been accepted by Government. Reserve Bank of India has been requested to furnish detailed legislative proposals in this regard.

Trade Deficit

3295. DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:
DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade deficit from April to September this year have doubled as compared to the corresponding period during the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the target of exports of various items could not be achieved during the same period; and

(d) if so, the factors responsible for such a shortfall in exports and steps taken to bridge the gap of trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) As per the provisional data from Directorate General Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), trade deficit during April-September, 1998-99, has increased to US\$ 4991 million as compared to US\$ 2496 million during the same period last year.

(b) The trade deficit has increased both due to a slowdown in export growth and to increase in imports especially that of gold & silver.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The exports were affected due to a general slow down in World trade and especially recession in many countries in south East Asia and Japan, domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agricultural commodities and barriers in markets of European Union (EU). A number of steps have been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme

3296. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS) again to unearth huge black money in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Textile Units of Rajasthan and Gujarat

3297. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the status of Rajasthan and Gujarat in textiles industry of the country;

(b) the number of units producing handloom, Powerloom, Synthetic Yarn, Readymade garments, Cotton cloth, Hosiery and Khadi and the quantum of various types of clothes produced by them in these States;

(c) the expenditure incurred for the development of textile industry in these States by the Union Government during each of the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of cloth items exported out of the cloth items produced by these units and the steps being taken by the Government to promote the export?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) Apart from specific schemes for development of Handlooms, Handicrafts & for Powerloom Service Centres, there is no general scheme for expending money for development of textile industry in any State including Gujarat and Rajasthan. Expenditure on these figure in: the Statement attached.

(d) State-wise/centre-specific/unit-wise break-up of exports is not maintained. Some of the steps taken by the Government to promote exports are:

- (i) the interest rates on pre-shipment and post-shipment credit fund have been reduced by 2% to make available finance at lower rates to the exporters.

(ii) The Government has proposed to pay interest to the exporters if duty drawback or refund of terminal excise duties is delayed beyond 2 months.

(iii) Requirement of minimum value addition of 33% under Advance License Scheme has been done away with actual users. The minimum net foreign exchange earnings as a percentage of exports for 100% EOU's/EPZ's has been reduced from 40% to 30%.

(iv) With a view to give a thrust to flow of investment in the spinning, weaving and processing segment of textile industry for undertaking substantial modernisation and upgradation of technology, the Government have introduced a New Quota Policy instrument viz., the Manufacture Exporters Entitlement Quota since 1991. This is done with a view to produce quality yarn and fabric for export of made-ups and readymade garments.

(v) Government have recently allowed cotton yarn producing 100% EOU's/EPZ's to export cotton yarn without any domestic cotton use and count restrictions to boost the export of cotton yarn from the country *vide* press note No. 17 (1998 Series).

(vi) Similarly, Government has introduced new Investors Entitlement (NIE) quota with effect from 1996. This has been done for encouraging modernisation in readymade garments and enable them to produce quality garments for export and earn more foreign exchange.

(vii) The threshold limit for zero duty EPCG import of garment machinery has been reduced from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore with a view to give definite fillip to the Indian Garment Exports.

(viii) The list of garment making and processing machines allowed for import at a concessional rate of duties has been enlarged.

Statement

(i) *The status of capacity of cotton/man made fibre textile mills in Gujarat and Rajasthan is as given below:*

Name of State	No. of Mills			Capacity			No. of workers
	Spinning	Composite	Total	Spindles	Rotors	Looms	
Gujarat	53	91	144	4114810	31200	44920	170428
% to All India	4	33	8	12	10	36	17
Rajasthan	45	6	51	1191756	17216	1462	57899
% to All India	3	2	3	4	5	1	6
All India	1,509	279	1788	33913288	316517	124033	1010583

(ii) *The details of yarn and cloth produced in Rajasthan and Gujarat are as given below:*

Name of State	Yarn production ('000) Kgs. 1997-98				Cloth Produced ('000 Sq. Mtrs.) (Mill Sector) 1997-98			
	Cotton	Blended	100% Non-Cotton	Total	Cotton	Blended	100% Non-Cotton	Total
Gujarat	166134	49194	6368	221696	315190	118372	22379	455941
% to All India	8	8	4	7	2	2	Neg.	1
Rajasthan	78013	120700	18838	217551	50277	18028	Nil	68305
% to All India	4	21	11	7	Neg.	Neg.	—	Neg.
All India	2213000	583000	177000	2973000	19992000	57511000	11153000	38896000

As per the census of handloom conducted in 1987-88, the no. of household and non-households in Gujarat and Rajasthan engaged in handloom weaving are as given below:

Name of State	No. of Looms (in thousand)		
	Urban	Rural	Total
Gujarat	5	18	23
Rajasthan	8	25	33

(ii) The no. of units producing powerloom, synthetic yarn are given below:

Name of State	Powerloom Units	Synthetic Yarn Units
Gujarat	31,317	14
Rajasthan	4,058	5

State-wise details of cloth production are not maintained.

Textile Commissioner's Office has set up one Powerloom Service Centre (PSC) each in Gujarat and Rajasthan with a view to develop powerloom industry in these States. The details of expenditure incurred in respect of these PSC's for the last three years are as given below:

Name of the PSC	Expenditure (In Rs. lakhs)			
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 (upto Oct. '98)
PSC Surat, Gujarat	6.29	11.23	9.11	6.09
PSC Kishangarh Rajasthan	5.27	5.00	6.99	5.04

Apart from the above, there are other schemes for development of Powerloom Service Centres implemented through Textile Research Associations and State Governments, etc. The year-wise expenditure on these schemes for the entire country, including Gujarat and Rajasthan, is as follows:—

1995-96	Rs. 274.96 lakhs
1995-97	Rs. 208.46 lakhs
1995-98	Rs. 288.86 lakhs

[*Translation*]

Net Banking of ICICI

3298. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICICI propose to introduce Net Banking Scheme for the first time in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Net Banking Scheme is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The ICICI Bank has reported that they have already introduced internet banking service. The service includes information about the ICICI Bank, services, rate of interest etc. It is proposed to provide additional facilities like fund transfer, utility bill payments etc. in due course.

New Branches of Coffee Board

3299. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJIHARPUR): Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coffee sold by the Coffee Board per year;

(b) whether Coffee Board is considering to extend its sales services network; and

(c) if so, the State-wise names of the new areas where Coffee Board intends to establish its new branches during 1998-99?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) A total quantity of 71,000 kgs. of Coffee (Seeds + Powder) has been sold by the Coffee Board during 1996-97.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Export of Textile Items

3300. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of export of textile items during the past three years by the Mill Sector, Powerloom Sector and Handloom Sector; and

(b) the details of steps taken to boost export of textile items?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The quantum of export of textile items during the past three years by the Mill Sector, Powerloom Sector and Handloom Sector are as under:—

Year	Amount (Rs. Crores)
1995-96	29809.77
1996-97	35477.92
1997-98	39126.61 (provisional)

(b) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost textile exports, such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials; ensuring increased availability of export credit, etc.

State Governments in Export Promotion

3301. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role of State Governments in export promotion and the existing organisational set up in each State for the purpose;

(b) whether the Government have made any evaluation to know the deficiencies, if any, in the export promotion efforts at the State level; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) State Governments are expected to promote exports by boosting production of exportable surplus, providing the infrastructural facilities in a conducive environment, reducing the tax burden and simplifying/removing procedural constraints in exports. With a view to involve the State Governments in export promotion, the following institutional set up has been

created:

- (i) Zonal Councils created under the States Re-Organisation Act, 1956 address various issues which include, *inter-alia*, promotion of exports;
- (ii) Separate Directorates of Commerce or Bureaus have been set up in some states to attend to export related matters and for undertaking export promotion activities on a regular basis;
- (iii) Apex Bodies for policy formulation and co-ordination chaired by Chief Minister and consisting of Ministers and Representatives of Trade and Industry as Members have been set up in some States.
- (iv) Export Promotion Councils representing various sectors and commodities have their state level offices and branches which co-ordinate the activities of exporters and producers for export production in the states.

(b) and (c) With a view to strengthen and upgrade the infrastructure for exports, following steps have been taken:—

- (i) 23 export intensive areas have been identified in different states for upgradation of infrastructure and sustained export promotion efforts.
- (ii) As a result of joint efforts of the Central and State Governments, 7 Export Processing Zones (EPZs) have been set up in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh. State Governments have provided land for setting up these units and exempted the EOU/EPZs units from entry tax and sales tax on supplies made to EOU/EPZs.
- (iii) Government have permitted the setting up of EPZs in the private and joint sector from May 1994. These EPZs, can be developed and managed either privately by the State Government or their agencies.
- (iv) A Scheme for Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in various states has been introduced under which 75% of the capital expenditure on each park limited to a maximum of Rs. 10 crore per park is provided by the Central

Government. An annual grant equivalent to 2% of the export turn over of the park for a period of 5 years is given towards maintenance.

- (v) A scheme of Critical Infrastructure Balance has been introduced from 1996 to provide assistance to State Governments and their agencies/Deptt. of Central/State Governments for the purpose of strengthening infrastructure for export promotion and to remove infrastructural bottlenecks.
- (vi) At least one export corporation in each state has been granted Export House status on recommendation of State Governments.
- (vii) Special thrust on Export Promotion from North East has been provided recently as a part of PM's new initiatives for the North East. An Inter-Ministerial Task Force has been constituted to examine trade related issues including border trade in the NE region.
- (viii) Inland Container Depots (ICDs), and Container Freight Stations (CFSs) are being set up in various states in the country in order to decongest ports and to provide door-step facilities to exporters.
- (ix) In order to facilitate export of goods by air and provide all necessary clearances expeditiously as all major airports in the country, 19 Air Cargo Complexes have been set up at all major airports in several states.

Commercial Transactions

3302. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the volume of commercial transactions held in the world as a whole during the year 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the share of India in such transactions; and

(c) the proposed steps to improve Indian position?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) As per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) data and Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data,

the world exports and imports of merchandise during 1996 and 1997 in dollar terms and India's share in the World Trade are:

Year	World Exports (US\$ billion)	India's share in world exports (%)	World Imports (US\$ billion)	India's share in world imports (%)
1996	5125	0.65	5265	0.74
1997	5295	0.64	5435	0.75

(c) A number of steps have been taken in the direction of improving India's exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

[*Translation*]

Availability of Gold

3303. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold available in the gold reserve of the country at present; and

(b) the value thereof in terms of Indian currency?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The gold holdings of the Reserve Bank of India, forming a component of India's foreign exchange reserves, were 357.27 tonnes, valued at Rs. 12963.33 crore as on December 11, 1998.

New Schemes to Boost Investment

3304. SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of investment in the country is going down despite liberalisation and give relaxation in the investment provisions;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are considering a new scheme to boost investment in the country; and

(d) if, so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As per the latest available data published by the Central Statistical Organisation, the investment rate measured in terms of ratio of gross domestic capital formation (GDCF) to gross domestic product (GDP) at 1980-81 prices has shown an increase during the period 1993-94 to 1996-97 as shown below:

GDCF as a proportion of GDP (at 1980-81 prices)

year	percent
1993-94	22.3
1994-95	26.9
1995-96	27.3
1996-97	27.4

(c) and (d) Review and monitoring of the country's economic situation including trends in major macro variables is a continuous process. Appropriate policy measures are initiated depending upon the emerging domestic as well as international economic situation.

Shifting of Office of Raj Mahal Project

3305. SHRI SOM MARANDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to shift the office of Raj Mahal Coal Project from Asansol, West Bengal to Sahibganj;

(b) if so, the time by which the office of Raj Mahal Project is likely to be shifted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) There is no office of Rajmahal Project at Asansol.

(b) to (c) Do not arise in view of the answer to part (a) of the Question.

[English]

Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission in J&K

3306. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre has provided additional funds as promised to meet the additional financial burden due to implementation of Fifth Pay Commission recommendations to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if the funds have not been provided so far the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The State Governments have the discretion in the matter of determining the salary structure of their employees and it is not mandatory for them to adopt the Central pay scales. Government of India could not make any commitment to meet any part of the expenditure incurred on payment of salaries to State Government employees. In the case of J&K, the State's negative resources are fully covered by the Centre with a view to protecting the size of the approved Annual Plan of the State. The negative resources this year have been estimated after taking into account the liability on account of the revision of pay scales on the basis of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

Cheaper Accommodation

3307. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes of the Government to provide cheaper accommodation to tourists on the lines of Ashok Yatri Niwas in State Capitals of the country;

(b) the details of the amount earmarked for the development of low budget hotels in the State Capitals; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be implemented completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to the State Governments for creation of cheaper accommodation for tourists in the shape of Yatri Niwas and Yatrikas etc. The financial assistance is provided for the projects which are identified in consultation with the State Governments. Ministry of Tourism has budgeted Rs. 1400 lakhs for budget accommodation during 1998-99. These projects are implemented by the State Governments.

ITDC

3308. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether room occupancy in various ITDC hotels in the country has come down considerably during the last year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the low occupancy in the Hotels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cumulative occupancy rate in ITDC hotels declined from 49% in 1996-97 to 42% in 1997-98. The decline in occupancy is attributed *inter-alia* to recessionary trend in Indian economy; lower turnout of international business travellers; currency crises in South East Asian countries making them cheaper destinations and heavy price undercutting by the private sector hotels.

Fraud in Banks

3309. SHRI SHANTILAL PURSHOTTAMDAS PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned Ex.-C.M.D. of a bank among four booked for fraud" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September, 10, 1998.

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Punjab & Sind Bank has reported that Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have registered a regular case against Shri K.S. Bains, former Chairman & Managing Director, Punjab & Sind Bank, a General Manager and a Branch Manager of the bank and Managing Director of a company regarding involvement of the above officials of the bank in sanctioning of bridge loan to the company and purchase/subsequent sale of its shares in violation of laid down norms in this regard causing wrongful loss to the bank. The bank has placed the concerned General Manager under suspension and disciplinary action has been initiated by the bank against him and two other officers.

Delinking of SIDBI from IDBI

3310. SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to delink Small Industries Development Bank of India from Industrial Development Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether delinking would have the several changes in capital structure, Board of Directors etc.; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As announced in the budget speech of June 1998, it is envisaged to bring about comprehensive amendments to Small Industries Development Bank of India Act, 1989 with a view to delink Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) from Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), enlarge the shareholders base of SIDBI and also provide SIDBI with greater functional autonomy and operational flexibility.

(c) and (d) The proposal includes change in capital structure so as to reduce IDBI shareholding to less than 49 percent, change in Board of Directors so as to give representation to the new shareholders and other consequential and related changes in the Act.

Revenue Earned from Textiles

3311. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by the Government from the processing of mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100% knitted polyester sectors;

(b) whether the Government propose to promote both the above sectors or only one sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The excise revenue from processed knitted or crocheted fabrics for the financial year 1997-98 is Rs. 18.01 crore (provisional). Data regarding revenue from the processing of polyester mixed cotton knitted fabrics and 100% knitted polyester fabrics is not available separately.

(b) and (c) Both the processed polyester mixed cotton knitted fabrics with polyester predominance and 100% polyester knitted fabrics attract the same rate of excise duty. Only processed cotton knitted fabrics (with cotton predominance has been exempted from excise levy in view of its export potential.

Coal Stock in NEC

3312. SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal stock in North Eastern Coalfields has been piling up due to over-emphasis or open-cast mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for failure to liquidate old stocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) The company (North Eastern Coalfields) is faced with the problem of liquidation of stock because, except local market, there is no major buyers from the major sectors like power, Steel and Cement.

Assistance by FIs

3313. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Financial Institutions (FIs) have decided to reschedule the loans of corporate with viable limits; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that decision for providing financial assistance to individual cases is based on the merits and viability of proposals. In respect of already assisted projects, financial institutions (FIs) consider proposals for rescheduling of loans and need based financial support. The need, extent and the form of assistance in each case would be determined on the basis of the promoters willingness and capacity to increase their own contribution, the physical progress achieved in implementation of the project etc. FIs in such cases invariably ensure that after the rescheduling, projects would continue to meet the viability norms and be able to service the loan.

Resurgent India Bonds

3314. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI K.P. MUNUSAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in despatch and allotment of Mega Resurgent India Bonds floated by State Bank of India to NRI investors and brokers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken to despatch and allot bonds?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The certificates of Resurgent India Bonds have been allotted on the 1st October 1998, well within two months from the date of closure viz. 24th August 1998, as per the 'Terms of Offer'. The despatch of certificates after verifying all the particulars printed thereon has since been completed. Considering the facts that there were 4,87,188 bond certificates to be checked and signed and that these had to be despatched to 82,519 applicants, there has been no undue delay.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Revamp of Textile Industry

3315. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked the textile mill owners to revamp the textile industries in the country for generating new employment opportunities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Commerce for abolition of customs duty on weaving machines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The present textile policy recognises as a main objective, the production of cloth of acceptable quality at reasonable prices to meet the clothing requirements of a growing population and in the pursuit of this main objective employment is also to be kept in view.

(c) and (d) Proposals for rationalisation of custom and other duties in respect of inputs for textile industry including machinery are proposed from time to time to the appropriate Ministry. Accepted proposals are reflected in Annual Budget.

Loans for Small Scale Industries

3316. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by banks for setting up of Small Scale Industries during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of such applications cleared and amount sanctioned during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the State-wise number of such applications lying pending for disposal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that data relating to number of applications received from SSI units for loans, cleared and pending with the public sector banks is not maintained by RBI. The data relating to number of accounts and the amount outstanding of loans to SSI with the public sector banks during the last three years (latest

available) is furnished below:

(Rs. crores)

Advance to SSIs

As on the last Friday of	No. of Accounts (in lakhs)	Amount (Outstanding)
March 1995	32.25	25843
March 1996	33.17	29482
March 1997	31.79	31542
December 1997	31.77	33383

(b) as per information provided by RBI, the State-wise data of the amount disbursed to SSI sector by the public sector banks for the years ending last Friday of

June 1993, 1994 and 1995 (latest available) is attached as statement.

Statement

Disbursal of Loans to SSI sector by public sector banks as on the last Friday of June, 1993, June 1994 and June 1995

(Amount Rs. 000's)

State/ U.T.	Industries - Total (200)					
	June 1993		June 1994		June 1995	
	No. of A/c.	Amount	No. of A/c.	Amount	No. of A/c.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Northern Region	22164	5908454	21921	8419562	27061	12169454
Haryana	2634	730633	2595	1033033	3867	1626039
H.P.	2087	114195	1829	107283	1664	110415

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
J & K	117	28883	265	102479	278	114394
Punjab	9906	2436617	8331	2085027	8854	3337557
Rajasthan	3531	251780	3637	377282	5117	783695
Chandigarh	273	82249	332	91994	520	597502
Delhi	3616	2264097	4932	4622464	6761	5599852
N.E. Region	4371	77276	4766	113302	6124	100907
Assam	2958	54912	2828	83567	4360	79059
Manipur	750	10632	711	12638	1044	7945
Meghalaya	81	2684	97	3523	167	4492
Nagaland	55	3083	31	3385	36	912
Tripura	383	4794	424	4847	481	7788
Arunachal Pradesh	6	70	11	527	16	531
Mizoram	3	78	3	205	2	70
Sikkim	136	1023	661	4610	18	110
Eastern Region	54162	1177157	54890	1413918	69229	1621922
Bihar	13903	298355	12666	263163	11508	363566
Orissa	5165	94481	5060	130147	6466	220364
W. Bengal	37072	783852	37147	1019720	51211	1035031

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	22	469	17	888	44	2961
Central Region	30397	1306694	35286	2168695	33524	3431533
M.P.	7145	235685	6766	384159	8631	761678
U.P.	23252	1071009	28520	1784536	24893	2669855
W. Region	24311	8748219	22231	10092745	23557	13973639
Gujarat	7161	1180676	7382	1822818	5989	2458393
Maharashtra	16513	2394120	14269	7956218	16216	11123681
Daman & Diu	6	1101	9	2560	8	386
Goa	607	171859	537	309780	1199	383727
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	26	464	34	1369	145	7452
Southern Region	30502	5060269	37071	6680355	53020	11432812
Andhra Pradesh	4220	631253	7546	954057	10343	1424983
Karnataka	10648	1348364	10287	1643659	14641	2693962
Kerala	5410	741899	6422	630226	8602	874411
Tamil Nadu	10223	2332469	12609	3434411	19127	6388535
Pondicherry	87	6226	194	17830	293	50495
Lakshadweep	4	75	13	172	14	426
All India	187997	22278069	176165	29888677	212515	42730267

Import of Yarn Fabric

3317. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of yarn fabric and made-ups into the country has increased by 32% during April-July this year;

(b) if so, the names of countries from which imports are made; and

(c) the export performance of above items during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) According to the provisional figures of the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the import of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups during the period April-July, 1998 recorded an increase of 32% in rupee terms and 14.8% in dollar terms, over the corresponding period of the previous year.

(b) Republic of Korea, Chinese Taipei, Peoples Republic of China, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Nepal, Thailand and USA are the major countries from which these textiles items are being imported by India.

(c) As per DGCI&S's figures the export of textile yarn, fabrics and made-ups amounted to Rs. 5620.31 crores (provisional) during the period April-July, 1998.

Export of Gold Jewellery

3318. SHRI VENKATARAMI ANANTHA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for export of gold Jewellery during 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantum of gold jewellery for which export licences have been issued during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A target of export of gold jewellery of value US\$ 850 million was fixed for the year 1997-98.

(c) Under the Export-Import Policy for the period 1997 to 2002 no export licence is required for export of gold jewellery.

Production Capacity of Cigarette Industry

3319. SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA:
SHRI G. GANGA REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made in order to determine the effects of increasing production capacity of Indian cigarette companies on the Bidi industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Labour, has assigned a study to a society called All India Society for Social Upliftment on the subject titled "Decline in the level of employment in the Bidi Sector—potential impact of mini-cigarettes". The Society has submitted its report to that Ministry.

Foreign Investment

3320. SHRI KAMALNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent concluded '1998 India Economic Summit' organised by the World Economic Forum has stressed upon implementation of the existing policies to attract foreign investors;

(b) the other important suggestions made during the Summit; and

(c) the reaction of the Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) In the recently concluded '1998 India Economic Summit' organised by the World Economic Forum, the importance of the implementation of the existing policies to attract foreign investors has been recognized. The other important suggested policy areas included insurance, capital markets, information technology, housing and infrastructure, trade liberalization and creation of popular support for economic reforms. The Government continuously reviews the existing policies for economic development and recognizes the increasing role of foreign investment in infrastructure especially in power, ports,

airports, roads, telecom, information technology, and in the service and insurance sectors.

Payment of Service Charges by HPC

3321. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Paper Corporation has paid service charges to its dealers for the sales made with the States as well as with Central Government Departments;

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

(c) whether the Hindustan Paper Corporation in Delhi has earmarked specific product segment to its stockists and dealers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b) Hindustan Paper Corporation (HPC) has neither engaged any private agent or dealer for servicing any State/Central Government Department orders nor made any payment towards service charges for the last three years.

(c) and (d) In the year 1994, HPC earmarked product segments for its Delhi Stockists/Dealers based on basic criteria such as Publishing, Exercise Books, Computer Stationery and Share Forms. However, in the present market condition of surplus availability of paper, the stockists/dealers lift paper pertaining to product segments depending on their market potentiality and need.

[*Translation*]

Light and Sound Programme of Bodh Gaya

3322. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal to start sound and light programme in Bodh Gaya of Bihar is pending for the consideration of the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Prices of Coal

3323. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of different varieties of coal have been increased after the nationalisation of coal industry;

(b) if so, the number of times the prices of coal have been increased upto March, 1998 and to what extent;

(c) the prices of different varieties of coal at the time of nationalisation of coal industry;

(d) whether coal industry suffered financial loss after its nationalisation;

(e) if so, the extent of financial loss suffered as a result thereof;

(f) whether the Government have decided to close down some coal mines; and

(g) if so, the details of such mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the past 25 years the prices have been revised 18 times. The average price of coal produced at the time of nationalisation was Rs. 37.50 per tonne. The average prices of coal produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) as revised last on 23.8.98 is Rs. 559.00 per tonne. That is an average of about Rs. 21.00 per annum per tonne of coal.

(d) and (e) The CIL and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in the nationalised coal sector have been incurring losses or earning profit on the basis of their operations in a financial year. The accumulated losses of CIL and SCCL as on 31.3.98 are Rs. 499.63 crores and Rs. 1115.06 crores respectively.

(f) and (g) The decision to close down mines rests in the companies and is done after considering exhaustion of reserves, safety considerations and economic viability.

[English]

Decline in Silk Worm

3324. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware about the alarming decline in the population of non-mulberry silkworm races;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to save this wild silk insect;

(c) whether the steps are being taken to rear the wild silkworm, except Eri, in outdoors in a big way;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to increase the Sal forests which serves as the host for perpetuation of antheraea mylitta ecoraces only in nature?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) There has been a decline in the natural Eco-races of non-mulberry tasar silkworm due to deforestation and mining activities in some parts of the country where tasar food plants exist. In the case of muga there is only a single race. No secular indication of decline in the population of the muga silkworm race is observed. There is no decline in the case of Eri.

(b) Central Silk Board (CSB) has a Central Tasar (Research and Training Institute at Ranchi for tasar and five Regional Tasar Research Stations at Dumka (Bihar), Baripada (Orissa), Jagadapur (M.P.), Bhandara (Maharashtra) and Chinoor (A.P.) which study and conduct work on conservation of the eco-races of tasar. For muga, the CSB has set up one Regional Muga Research Station at Boko in Assam. In addition, the Central Muga Research & Training Institute is being established at Ladolgarh near Jorhat in Assam. For Eri, the Research & Training Institute is established at Mendipather in Meghalaya.

(c) and (d) CSB is implementing a project jointly with Department of Sericulture, Government of Madhya

Pradesh to arrest the decline of Raily eco-race. The project commenced in 1994-95 and involves release of 11.43 lakh seed cocoons, 9.04 lakh months and 1.50 lakh dffs. Upto June, 1998 there has been an expenditure of Rs. 26.55 lakhs.

Besides 80 MT of tasar and 40 MT of muga raw silk per annum are the incremental production targetted by the end of IXth Plan. This would involve an additional consumption of about 30 lakh dffs in tasar and 40 lakh dffs in muga by the end of IXth Plan. Both tasar and muga can be reared only outdoors.

Further, CSB has also offered various schemes in tasar and muga to States in the IXth Plan under its Catalytic Development Programmes.

(e) Sal, Shorea robusta, Roxb, is one of the food plants of Antheraea mylitta and is mostly in forest areas which are under the purview of Department of Forests. CSB has no schemes to increase the area under Sal.

Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

3325. SHRI SADASHIV RAO D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trader importers of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks (ROB) import ROB in Bulk quantities at a time in order to take advantage of our weak currency thereby bringing more pressure of our balance of payment position for storing heavy stocks to undesirable level to make maximum profit;

(b) whether the Small Scale Industrial Units producing spectacle lenses by processing ROB cannot adopt the above course of action because of their limited resources;

(c) if so, what action is proposed to be taken against the trader importers of ROB to check that the imports at a time are made within limits in order to do away with the hoarding practice adopted by them and remain in justified levels and to ensure that the monopoly of the trader importers, which are very few in numbers are not able to manipulate the market by adopting foul means and malpractices which go against the national interest and the interest of SSI Units?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) As per the Import Policy currently in vogue, import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks (ROB) falls in the Free List of imports and hence the ability of the trader importers to extract monopoly benefits and manipulate the market is drastically curtailed. The number of operators/traders in the market will depend upon expected profitability through trade and increase in profitability would attract new entrants thereby increasing the competition and benefiting the users.

As total imports of ROB is very small, only around 0.01 to 0.02 per cent of our total imports, the increased imports of ROB may not put any significant pressure on the Balance of Payments position.

Income Tax/Excise Duty Dues against Reliance Industries

3326. DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total outstanding dues claim by the Government towards income tax and excise duty payable by Reliance Industries Limited as on March 31, 1998;

(b) the time by which the Government propose to recover these dues; and

(c) the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The outstanding dues payable by M/s. Reliance Industries Ltd. as on 31.3.1998, in respect of Income-tax and Excise duty are Rs. 156.63 crores and Rs. 175.05 crores, respectively.

(b) and (c) The outstanding amounts are locked up in cases pending with appellate authorities. As such it is not possible to indicate a time limit.

Import of Cattle Meat by EU

3327. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether European Union have banned import of Bones, Ossein from India and calling certification for free of Mad Cow disease;

(b) if so, whether any representation from Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation has been received by the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to issue any order for banning use of animal origin products from cattle feed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) No, Sir. However, procedure for issuance of a certificate by the Chemicals & Allied Products Export Promotion Council regarding production process for the export of certain Bones and Bone products for export to European Union was prescribed on 20th May, 1997 to meet the requirement of European Union, every country exporting bone products to European Union will be required to obtain a B.S.E. (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy) free status or alternatively a certificate that the products exported do not contain any specified risk material.

(b) Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying) has received a representation from Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation.

(c) The cattle feed standards of Bureau of India standards, which serve as guidelines for feeding, specifically prohibit incorporation of dead animal by-products in cattle feed.

(d) Does not arise.

Collection of Central Taxes from States

3328. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the collection of Central Taxes from the States during Seventh and Eighth Plan State-wise; and

(b) the share of States in such Central taxes during the above mentioned period; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The collections of Central Taxes are not maintained State-wise.

(b) Collections from Income Tax and Union Excise Duties are shareable with the States. The Share paid to the States during Seventh and Eighth Plan period is shown in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(In crores of Rs.)

States	Share paid to the States during 7th Plan period	Share paid to the States during 8th Plan period
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	3737.92	10617.59
2. Arunachal Pradesh	214.70	669.43
3. Assam	1718.86	4356.92
4. Bihar	5639.03	15136.25
5. Goa	90.60	402.26
6. Gujarat	1846.07	5150.32
7. Haryana	564.04	1653.90
8. Himachal Pradesh	695.72	1856.10
9. Jammu & Kashmir	996.96	3010.28
10. Karnataka	2342.41	6259.77
11. Kerala	1729.71	4556.18
12. Madhya Pradesh	3849.31	9926.10

1	2	3
13. Maharashtra	3489.83	8610.25
14. Manipur	389.39	898.27
15. Meghalaya	313.71	776.44
16. Mizoram	227.72	749.02
17. Nagaland	411.58	1003.92
18. Orissa	2124.69	6107.65
19. Punjab	794.03	2123.03
20. Rajasthan	2201.41	6768.28
21. Sikkim	80.10	255.72
22. Tamil Nadu	3425.91	8678.78
23. Tripura	473.33	1226.86
24. Uttar Pradesh	8350.24	21872.52
25. West Bengal	3746.14	9318.81
Total	49453.41	131984.85

Export Target

3329. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED:
 PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
 SHRI DINSHAW PATEL:
 SHRI ABHAYSINH S. BHONSLE:
 SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT:
 SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA:
 SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
 SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
 SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH:
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
 SHRI A.C. JOS:
 SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:
 SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:
 SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
 SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
 SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
 SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN:
 SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a long and a medium term export strategy to boost the export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rate of growth of export during the last six months ending September, 30, 1998 as compared to the same period of previous year;

(d) the target fixed for the export during 1997-98 and 1998-99;

(e) whether the target fixed for export has been achieved;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government have decided to involve State Government in the efforts to promote export;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Ministry has prepared a Medium Term Strategy Covering sectoral and directional aspects for achieving a targeted export level of US\$ 90 to 100 billion by the year 2002 and to achieve 1% share in world trade. The sectoral strategy discusses

sector specific issues and suggests various measures to improve trade in these sectors. The directional strategy suggests a special focus on the emerging markets in Africa, Latin America and CIS countries.

(c) As per DGCI&S figures, growth of exports during last six months i.e. April-September, 1998 has been 12.26% in rupee terms and 3.28% in dollar terms as compared to the corresponding period for last year.

(d) The targets fixed for the exports during 1997-98 and 1998-99 are 18% and 20% in dollar terms respectively.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. The declaration in exports have been affected mainly due to a general slow down in world trade especially recession in many countries in South East Asia and Japan domestic supply constraints in some sectors such as agriculture commodities, barriers faced in the markets of European Union and Infrastructural bottlenecks.

(g) and (h) Yes, Sir. A greater co-ordination is being encouraged between the Centre and States on this matter. A number of schemes such as Export Promotion Zones, and Export Promotion Industrial Parks involve the State Governments in export promotion. The Crucial Infrastructure Balance scheme is a joint intervention between Centre and States to strengthen infrastructure in export growth centres. In addition nodal officers have nominated in the Ministry to have interface with states in the matter of exports and special thrust is being provided on export promotion from North-East.

(i) A number of steps have already been taken to promote exports which include lowering of interest rates on export credit, reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation and simplification of procedures, and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy.

Loans/Advance to M/s Padmini Polymers Ltd.

3330. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of total loan and advance upto Rs. 200 crores taken by M/s. Padmini Polymers Ltd., New Delhi from various financial institutions, Mutual funds, banks as on date;

(b) the details of company's total outstanding liabilities of loan and advances;

(c) whether the company is having a poor pay back record;

(d) whether inspite of all the above things the company's case is pending before the SEBI for investigation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that M/s. Padmini Polymers Ltd. have obtained assistance from IDBI, IFCI and IIBI and as on date the company is in default to IDBI in respect of repayment of principal and payment of interest and other charges. In accordance with the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of Public Financial Institution (Obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

(d) and (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[*Translation*]

Patent to Indian Plants

3331. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to patent some Indian plants like Amla, Bale, Jack fruit, Mahua, Texas, Adusa etc. very soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which they are likely to be patented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Patents Act, 1970, plants are not patentable.

[*English*]

Grant to Coir Industry Workers of Kerala

3332. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants given to Kerala for the welfare of coir workers during each of the year from 1991-92 to 1997-98;

(b) whether no grant was sanctioned during the years 1995-96 and 1997-98 in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the Union Government for a special grant for the satisfactory implementation of its various welfare schemes for lakhs of poor coir workers;

(e) if so, the amount of the special grant requested for by the State Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) The amount of grant given by the Government to the Coir Board for welfare schemes for the workers in Kerala during the years 1991-92 to 1997-98 is as follow:—

1991-92	Rs. 25.00 lakhs
1992-93	Rs. 25.00 lakhs
1993-94	Rs. 10.00 lakhs
1994-95	Rs. 15.00 lakhs
1995-96	Nil
1996-97	Rs. 50.00 lakhs
1997-98	Nil

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Although the scheme was approved in principle, funds were released on adhoc basis from year to year since 1991-92. Since there was no specific approval for release of funds. Government was approached by the Coir Board with the request to issue specific sanction for the release of Rs. 50 lakhs to Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Funds Board during the year 1995-96. Accordingly pending detailed evaluation of the scheme as stipulated by the Planning Commission, the request of the Coir Board was considered and it was decided that a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to KCWWF Board may be released for the year 1995-96. However, as the orders for release of this amount were issued in April '96, this amount could not be utilised by the

Coir Board during 1995-96 and sanction was revalidated authorising the Coir Board to release the grant to Kerala Coir Workers Welfare Fund (KCWWF) Board during the year 1996-97. During 1997-98 no grant could be sanctioned by the Government for the KCWWF Board because several irregularities had been found in the evaluation conducted by the Coir Board on the performance of the KCWWF Board. These irregularities were brought to the notice by the Coir Board to all concerned.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir, Government of Kerala has requested for a Central Government grant of Rs. 5 crores for successful implementation of its various welfare schemes for coir workers. Coir Board had earlier evaluated the performance of the KCWWF. The evaluation report has pointed out many irregularities which have been brought to the notice of the KCWWF Board by the Coir Board. The Coir Board had suggested to the KCWWF Board to maintain proper accounts for the disbursement of pension etc. This matter has also been considered by the Government and it is felt that it would not be possible for the Government to release any grant to the Kerala Coir Workers' Welfare Fund Board unless remedial steps are taken by them for improving the operations of the Fund as advised by the Coir Board. State Government has also been requested to initiate necessary action in the matter. The Coir Board has also been advised to take follow up steps with the Welfare Fund Board.

Investment by NRIs

3333. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount invested by the Non-Resident Indians and other Multinational Companies in India after introduction of New Industrial policy, till date; and

(b) the details of the industrial sectors in which investment has been made by them?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Proposals envisaging NRI investment of Rs. 7,44,902.60 lakhs and foreign investment of Rs. 1,75,03,189.20 lakhs have been approved from 1991 to October, 1998.

These investments are in various sectors like Power & Fuels, Metallurgical Industries, Telecommunication, Food Processing Industries, Chemicals, Transportation Industry, Hotel & Tourism and Financial Services etc.

Indian Banks Abroad

3334. SHRI TATHAGAT SATPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Public and Private Sector Indian Banks which have opened their branches abroad; and

(b) the target of collection set by these branches and the actual collection made during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that at present eight public sector banks and one private sector bank are having branches in foreign countries. The names of the banks are as under:—

Public Sector Banks:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. State Bank of India | 2. Bank of India |
| 3. Bank of Baroda | 4. Indian Bank |
| 5. Indian Overseas Bank | 6. UCO Bank |
| 7. Canara Bank | 8. Syndicate Bank |

Private Sector Bank: Bharat Overseas Bank

(b) The data reporting system of the RBI does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, Customer deposits of these banks by their Overseas branches for the last three years are given below:—

Name of the Bank	Bank-wise Summary of Customer Deposits of Indian Banks Overseas Branches for the year ended 31st March of		
	1996	1997	1998 (In US\$ mn.)
1	2	3	4
Bank of Baroda	1027.25	1014.20	1146.25
Bank of India	1502.33	1482.81	1707.34

1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	1581.07	1677.58	1643.07
Indian Overseas Bank	185.57	173.59	151.04
UCO Bank	374.38	399.42	357.42
Indian Bank	288.64	256.06	219.66
Canara Bank	90.33	81.24	125.33
Syndicate Bank	52.36	60.88	64.33
Bharat Overseas Bank	49.70	48.32	63.73

Small Investors

(g) if so, the details thereof?

3335. SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEO MOHOL:
SHRI D. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'The Case of the missing companies' appearing in 'Economic Times' dated November 23, 1998.

(b) As per information furnished by SEBI, 1893 companies came out with initial public offerings during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1997-98 out of these 41 companies were not traceable. The details of these companies have been forwarded by SEBI to Department of Company Affairs for appropriate action.

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) whether several companies are delisting their share;

(c) to (e) As per the present guidelines, companies can delist their securities either through voluntary delisting on the stock exchanges other than the regional stock exchanges or under Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeover Regulations, 1997 when the public shareholding goes below the statutory minimum in the process of Takeover of a company. Voluntary delisting requires specific approval of shareholders as well as provision of an exit mechanism.

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government for small investors who have got share certificates with them;

(e) whether these companies shall take back their certificates;

(f) whether the Government considering to bring any ordinance for small investors; and

(f) and (g) SEBI is adequately empowered to take necessary corrective steps against issues and market intermediaries to safeguard the interests of small investors.

Import of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

3336. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the importers of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks take full advantage of the fall in the value of the country's rupee by doing forward booking of dollars whereas the SSI units in this trade can not adopt such practice because of their limited resources; and

(b) if so, the action being contemplated by the Government to stop forthwith such forward booking of dollars by the importers of ROB in order to make the level of playing field equal with the manufacturer importers with a view to save the interest of SSIs and Tiny Industries engaged in this trade.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Forward booking of foreign exchange transactions protects the importers from losses arising from unexpected volatility in the exchange rate. In view of this all importers are normally encouraged to go in for forward booking.

Land Occupied by Shalimar Tar Plant

3337 SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas occupied by the Shalimar Tar Plant in the Lodna Area of BCCL and its value;

(b) whether till 1990 the management of BCCL maintained that the land did not belong to BCCL and so reported the Government;

(c) if so whether now it has been proved that the land belongs to BCCL;

(d) whether this truth has been discovered and pointed out by the workers of the Plant; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof and the steps taken to reward the workers and punish the officials giving wrong reports earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The total area occupied by the Shalimar Tar Plant in the Lodna Area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited is 13.50 acres. The value of the land as per rate notified by the Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad has been assessed as Rs. 8,91,000.

(b) and (c) in the year 1982 Bharat Coking Coal Limited had informed the Ministry that the land over which the premises of Shalimar Tar Plant situated was owned by M/s. Shalimar Tar Plant and not by Lodna Colliery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. This stand was based on the fact that Bharat Coking Coal Limited at that time did not have in its possession the relevant papers/documents disclosing the ownership of the said land within Mouza Lodna in favour of Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

Subsequent search for the relevant documents revealed that the land in question as recorded and owned by the erstwhile Colliery, namely, the Lodna Colliery Company Ltd. (1920). The said Lodna Colliery Company upon nationalisation of Coking Coal Mines in 1972 had vested in the Central Government and thereby in the Government Coal Company i.e. Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(d) and (e) The claim that the workers of Shalimar Tar Plant discovered the truth and pointed it out to the management is not correct. The fact remains that the Bharat Coking Coal Limited on its own searched the records, which revealed that the land over which Shalimar Tar Plant is located, was owned by M/s Lodna Colliery Company Limited.

[Translation]

Bank Loans to Farmers in Bihar

3338. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan disbursed to cooperative, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks to the Small and marginal farmers in Bihar during each of the last three years, and till date;

(b) whether any irregularities have been detected at the time of sanctioning the loans;

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(d) the total amount of loan recovered during the said period; and

(e) the steps being taken to simplify the procedure of bank loan to the farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), loans disbursed by Co-operative banks, commercial banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in Bihar including loans

to small and marginal farmers for the last three years is given below. RBI has reported that its data system does

not generate information separately for small and marginal farmers.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Credit disbursed by		
	Co-op. Banks	RRBs	Comm. Banks
1995-96	332.77	3639.27	11003.15
1996-97	587.99	6081.19	14863.91
1997-98	730.73	6144.76	14009.48
1998-99 (Sep. 98)	101.23	1921.19	4333.17

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that no complaint of irregularities has been received about sanctioning of loans.

(d) The details of the recovery position of loans by banks under IRDP in Bihar, as reported by RBI, is given below:

(Rs. lakhs)

Year	Demand	Recovery	Overdue	% of recovery to demand
1995-96	23144.41	5983.04	17161.37	25.85
1996-97	34405.78	11208.55	23197.23	32.60
1997-98	30359.27	7822.84	22536.43	25.80

(e) RBI had appointed a High Level Committee (R.V. Gupta Committee) on agricultural credit to study the working of the credit delivery system and to make suggestions for simplification and improvement in the system and procedure of bank loan to farmers. The committee has suggested several procedural modifications which include simplification of procedure regarding loan application forms, loan agreements, etc. rationalisation of

internal returns of banks, delegation of more powers to branch manager, introduction of composite cash credit limit to agricultural farmers, introduction of new loan products with saving components, cash disbursement of loans, dispensation of "No Due Certificates, discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for agricultural loans above Rs. 10,000 etc. Banks have been advised by RBI to implement these recommendations.

*[English]***Income Tax Assesseees**

3339. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage/ratio of Income tax assesseees out of total population in Metropolitan Cities as on April 1,

1998, City-wise; and

(b) the economic criteria of the people who are outside the tax net, city-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) The percentage/ratio of income tax assesseees as on 31.3.98 out of total population as per 1991 census is as follows:

Metropolitan Cities	Total Income tax assesseees as on 31.3.98	Total population 1991 census	Percentage
Calcutta	15,56,881	110,21,918	14.13%
Mumbai	15,47,498	125,96,243	12.28%
Delhi	8,62,461	84,19,084	10.24%
Chennai	12,07,326	54,21,985	22.26%

The figure of Income tax assesseees includes individuals, Firms, Hindu Undivided families, company, Association of persons, Cooperative societies.

(b) The Income Tax Act, 1961, imposes a liability to file a return of income with respect to all persons in the following manner.

1. With respect to the entire country every person if his total income or the total income of any other person in respect of which he is assessable under this Act during the previous year, exceeds the maximum amount which is not chargeable to Income tax;
2. Additionally with respect to the metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta and Chennai and certain other notified places, any person who fulfills one of the six prescribed economic criteria namely;
 - (i) Is in occupation of an immovable property exceeding a specified floor area, whether by way of ownership, tenancy or otherwise as specified in this behalf; or

(ii) Is the owner or the lessee of a motor vehicle; or

(iii) Is a subscriber to a telephone; or

(iv) Has incurred expenditure for himself or any other person on travel to any foreign country; or

(v) Is the holder of the credit card, not being an add on card, issued by any Bank or institution; or

(vi) Is a member of a club where entrance fee charged is twenty five thousand rupees or more.

All other persons not covered by the above conditions are outside tax net.

Eco-Tourism

3340. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Wyanad District in Kerala has been identified as an important destination for eco-tourism in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any financial assistance for promotion of eco-tourism in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) For the development of Wyanad district in Kerala, the Ministry of Tourism has prioritised Rs. 50.00 lakhs for the construction of a Yatri Niwas at Thirunelly.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala has identified Thenmala for development as one of the eco-tourism projects. The Government of India has prioritised a project for purchase of trekking and rock-climbing equipments for Thenmala during the year 1998-99 at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.00 lakhs.

Hotels and Motels in Kerala

3341. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of ITDC Hotels and Motels in Kerala, location-wise;

(b) the quantum of profit/loss during each of the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to make it more profitable ones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) ITDC is operating only one hotel viz. Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort, Kovalam in the State of Kerala. It is a profit making unit and year-wise details of profit earned during last three years are given below:

(Rs. in Lacs)

Year	Amount
1995-96	411.49
1996-97	279.86
1997-98	174.00

(c) The steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve profitability of the Hotel includes upgradation/renovation of the property; introduction of new packages i.e. Weekend, Honeymoon, Beach & Backwater Holidays, Ayurvedic Rejuvenation; conducting regular Food Festivals; launching of Privilege Card offering various facilities; aggressive promotion of Convention Centre; control and reduction of avoidable expenditure etc.

Export Promotion Zones

3342. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are satisfied with EPZ scheme in so far as pursuance of its objectives;

(b) if so, the details of the Export Promotion Zones that had organised export promotion without any concomitant disadvantages; and

(c) if not, the date by which this scheme is likely to be wound up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Export Processing Zone (EPZ) Scheme, by and large, has been able to achieve its main objective of earning of foreign exchange, stimulating domestic and foreign investments in export oriented industries and expending employment opportunities. Details of exports, investment and employment by units in the EPZs are indicated below:—

Exports (1997-98)	Domestic/Foreign Investment	Employment
Rs. Crores	by units (Rs. Crores)	
4817.30	1564.35	82,980

(c) Does not rise.

Foreign Tour by Director, STC

3343. SHRI AKBAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited had gone abroad against the advice of solicitors of the Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons for complaint received in this regard by Ministry of Commerce has not been redressed till date;

(c) whether a claim of 16 crores has been received by the State Trading Corporation of India Limited for his total mishandling and mismanagement of the subject deal on sugar; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken against him for misuse of Government's fund and resulting in losses of 16 crores?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) State Trading Corporation deputed its Director (Law) and General Manager (Law) to attend the court proceedings at London in December, 1996 with the approval of the competent authority and in consultation with its solicitors at London in a case in which damages were claimed for import of sugar by M/s. Andre & Cie.

After verification of the facts, the complaint received in this regard in Ministry of Commerce was closed with the approval of competent authority.

(c) and (d) Based on the judgment of the London Court and the award given by the Refined Sugar Association, a sum of Rs. 2.13 crores (approx.) has been paid by STC to M/s. Andre and Cie. This case is already under investigation by CBI and an RC has been registered on 19.3.1997 against the delinquent officials.

[Translation]

Role of SIDBI

3344. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by Small Scale Industries Development Bank of India in promoting small scale industries in the country with particular reference of Bihar;

(b) the number of small industrial units set up/revived by the said bank in the State by providing loan during the last three years;

(c) whether the said bank propose to increase its activities in the State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as an apex financial institution for promotion, financing and development of Small Scale Industries (SSI) sector has been playing a dominant role in the country

as a whole since its inception (in 1990). SIDBI has been lending by way of both indirect as well as direct finance. The cumulative assistance provided by SIDBI during the period 1990-98 aggregated Rs. 36,264 crores of sanctions and Rs. 26,702 crores of disbursements. SIDBI has been extending loans through its various schemes, refinance assistance, direct lending and promotional activities to ensure accelerated flow of credit to the State of Bihar. SIDBI has 2 branch offices in the state as against only one branch office in many other states. SIDBI's assistance by way of sanctions and disbursements to SSIs in the state of Bihar during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	(Rs. crore)		
	Bihar		
	No.	Sanctions	Disbursements
1995-96	1143	57.90	51.95
1996-97	1653	92.93	78.38
1997-98	4635	105.69	97.69

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Visit India Year

3345. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the year from 1st April, 1999 to 31st March, 2000 "Visit India Year" has been declared as India Tourism year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have decided to launch any special scheme for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The Ministry of Tourism is proposing to organise "Visit India Year" from 1st April 1999 to 31st March, 2000.

(b) and (c) The special schemes for the purpose will include:

- Theme packages for different markets.
- To select a few Fairs and Festivals and give them wider publicity.
- To organise Shopping and Food Festivals.
- To organise special events for Millennium celebrations.
- To have special ceremonies for opening and closing of Visit India Year.
- To organise Tourism Expo/Exhibitions.
- To improve visitor facilitation.

Corruption in Assurance Company

3346. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:
SHRI RAMA CHANDRA MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on July 25, 1997 to the Unstarred Question No. 462 regarding corruption complaints against Assurance Companies and state:

(a) whether a number of complaints of corruption, forgery of documents non-despatch of typed policy to the customers, payment of fraudulent claims and misconduct of officials have been received from several quarters against the D.M. and other official of Divisional office-310400 of the New India Assurance Co. Ltd. in the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring D.M. and officials;

(c) whether illegal payments from Company's account are being made under several heads including security of office to the Record Clerks by the divisional office;

(d) if so, the details of payments made during the year 1997, and till October, 1998 to the Record clerks and Security Staff; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring D.M. for making illegal payments from the Company's account?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) One complaint was received containing allegations of irregularities in settlement of the claims.

(b) The allegations were investigated by the Vigilance Department of the New India Assurance Co. Ltd., Mumbai. Certain lapses were noticed in the settlement of the claims by the concerned Divisional Office which are being looked into by the Technical Department of the Company.

(c) No such complaint has been brought to the notice of the company.

(d) and (e) do not arise.

Formulation of Scheme by C.B.E.C.

3347. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has formulated any scheme to bolster excise revenue and crack down on evaders; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As part of general strategy to bolster revenue, the Central Board of Excise & Customs has issued instructions to the field formations to take anti-evasion measures so as to prevent and detect evasion of Central excise duty. The strategy includes effective gathering of intelligence mounting up surveillance of evasion prone units/industrial areas, strict Modvat checkings by constituting Special Modvat Audit Teams especially verification of modvatable invoices *vis-a-vis* the inputs received, stock verification of inputs and finished goods, increased transit checkings especially at odd hours and holidays, quick circulation of any novel *modus operandi* noticed at any part of the country, strengthening of anti-evasion machineries at all levels including the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion. etc.

National Handloom Policy

3348. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from South Indian Weavers Convention for formulating the weavers and their welfare organisations;

(b) if so, whether the weavers have also sought rehabilitation who were without work and creation of appropriate marketing strategy for their products;

(c) if so, whether any concrete policy in this regard has been chalked out; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) The South Indian Handloom Weavers Organising Committee through Andhra Pradesh Cheneta Karmika Samakya have sent their representation which, *inter-alia*, includes policy issues. These policy issues have been referred to the Expert Committee set up in July, 1998 for their consideration.

Auto Industry

3349. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether auto Industry has shown nil growth in terms of sale of vehicles during 1997-98; as compared to 20% growth from 1993 to 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Auto Industry has asked the Government for duty cuts for all the vehicles;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to boost auto industry;

(e) whether the Government have decided to allow free import of vehicle from 2000; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the challenge of competition in auto sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Particularly, in the Commercial Vehicle segment, there has been sluggish demand in the last two years. The main reasons for sharp decline in production were : slump in the economy and the industry as a whole, inadequate spending on infrastructure projects, as also international recessionary trends.

(c) and (d) The Association of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (AIAM) have presented Pre-Budget memoranda, requesting for a number of concessions and incentives, including reduction in excise duty, to revive the automobile industry. The suggestions are receiving the attention of the Government.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Patent Rights from WTO

3350. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the details of the Indian commodities (Ayurvedic, pulses indigenous items) seeking patent rights from WTO?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): Patents are granted by respective Governments under their Patent Laws. The WTO does not give patent rights.

Permission for Borrowings from Market

3351. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has sought the permission from the Union Government for borrowings from the market; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat sought the permission from the Central Government for borrowings from the market which has already been given to them and the State Government has already raised the market borrowings of Rs. 514.42 crores (gross) during the current year.

[Translation]

Import of Coal

3352. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of coking and non-coking coal imported/being imported during the last three years, till date, alongwith the various sectors, the names of the countries from which this import is being done and the rate at which this import is being done;

(b) the quantity required by the steel plants during the above period; and

(c) the requirement of coal of steel plants met from the indigenous coal mines and the quantity of coal imported for the purpose alongwith the value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The quantity of coking and

non-coking coals imported into the country during the last three years is given as below:

(In million tonnes)
(Data Provisional)

Year	Non-Coking	Coking	Total Value (Rs. in crores)
1995-96	3.14	9.37	3093
1996-97	9.78	4.53	3532
1997-98	10.65	6.56	4422

Information with regard to import of coal for April to November, 98 is being collected.

The countries from which coal were imported are Canada, Germany, Australia, Indonesia, U.K., U.S.A., China, South Africa, New Zealand etc.

Government do not import coal directly. Imports are being resorted to by the actual consumers. While the coking coal is imported by the Integrated Steel plants, non-coking coal is imported by the power houses and cement plants etc. as per the commercial arrangements and there is no firm international price of different grades of coal. The rate of coal in international trade depends on various market conditions at the time of import and is neither fixed nor known to the Ministry of Coal.

(b) and (c) The target of supply of washed + Direct feed Coal to steel plants and the actual supplies from sources of Coal India Limited are as follows:

(In million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Supply
1995-96	11.590	10.151
1996-97	11.210	8.861
1997-98	11.890	7.831

[English]

Loans of IDBI

3353. DR. SAROJA V.: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loans sanctioned by the IDBI against the target set during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have identified the reasons for not meeting target in regard thereto;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the industrial development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Industrial Development Bank of India has reported that the amount of loans sanctioned by IDBI against targets set during each of the last three years are as under:

(Rs. Crore)

	Target	Actuals
1995-96	25000	19489
1996-97	22000	17050
1997-98	20000	24199

(b) and (c) During 1997-98 the actuals were higher as compared to the target. During 1996-97 actuals were lower than the targets largely because of the industrial and investment slowdown in the economy. During 1995-96 sanctions were lower than targets primarily due to a change in business mix of IDBI. Short term loans were phased out during the year following the ban on bridge loans imposed by the Reserve Bank of India.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to increase the industrial development in the country includes wide ranging changes in the industrial policy over the period, cut in personal and corporate income tax rates across the board, easing of monetary conditions, promotional measures for small scale sector, and making foreign investment policy more transparent and simpler.

*[Translation]***Import/Export Licences**

3354. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of import/export licences issued during the last three years; and

(b) the name-wise and firm-wise details of each of the licensee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The total number of Import/Export licences issued during the years 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 were 48909, 51784 and 55350 respectively.

(b) The requisite information is too voluminous and as such cannot be furnished in the form of a statement. However, details of all the import/export licences issued by DGFT (HQ) and its Port offices are given in the monthly publications "Exim update supplement", copies of which are being made available to Parliament Library.

Punjab National Bank

3355. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank has sent the report which was sought by the Ministry in regard to expansion of Himachal Rural Banks in Hamirpur, Una and Bilaspur districts of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action taken as a follow-up of that report?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Some references were received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament wherein requests were made that the area of Operation of Himachal Gramin Bank (HGB) may be extended and branches be opened in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una Districts. As per report of the sponsor bank of HGB i.e. Punjab National Bank (PNB) in this regard, the HGB will be able to open new branches only when new staff is recruited in HGB.

Licences to Multinational Companies

3356. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued to multinational companies by the Government during 1997-98, country-wise; and

(b) the areas in which these companies have made investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) (a) and (b) During 1997 and 1998, 22 letters of intent for licensable cases were issued with proposed foreign investment by various countries namely Italy, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Singapore, U.K., USA etc. The areas of investment are textiles, leather, industrial machinery, transportation, fuel etc.

*[English]***Export of Marine Products**

3357. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of various types of Marine Products during each of the last five years in Gujarat;

(b) the details of quantity and value thereof;

(c) the details of quantity and value of each Marine Product exported from Jamnagar and other districts of Gujarat during each of the last five years, country-wise;

(d) the details of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(e) the steps taken for more export to above countries during 1999, 2000 & 2001 alongwith target of export fixed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) (a) and (b) The details of various types of fish and fishery products exported through

Kandla and Porbandar ports of Gujarat from the year 1994-95 onward, are as follows:

Item	Q: Quantity in metric tons		\$: Value in US\$ million			
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 April 98- Oct. 98	
Frozen Shrimp	Q:	7773	5295	6329	6275	2035
	\$:	38.89	28.24	28.23	32.80	9.01
Frozen Lobster	Q:	410	516	389	380	119
	\$:	5.15	5.98	4.29	3.86	0.90
Frozen Cuttlefish	Q:	7614	6417	7451	7630	1751
	\$:	14.35	11.16	12.70	15.19	2.03
Frozen Squid	Q:	9990	10577	14186	9432	3444
	\$:	14.69	17.42	20.90	13.83	4.71
Frozen Fish	Q:	60741	59223	91803	97195	10907
	\$:	59.38	61.74	88.50	103.72	17.48
Others	Q:	458	530	3055	4649	1532
	\$:	0.61	0.95	4.98	6.56	1.83
Total	Q:	86986	82558	123213	125561	24708
	\$:	133.07	125.49	159.80	175.96	35.96

Source: Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

(c) and (d) The details of export of various fish & fishery products from the ports of Kandla and Porbandar

which mainly export products sourced from the State of Gujarat including Jamnagar and other districts from the

year 1994-95 onward, are as follows:

Country/Market	Q: Quantity in metric tons		V:\$: Value in US\$ million			
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 April 98- Oct. 98	
USA	Q:	3553	4130	4616	4152	1008
	\$:	10.84	9.10	10.44	12.82	2.34
Japan	Q:	3196	3229	5491	7032	2300
	\$:	24.05	23.49	25.10	27.79	7.23
European Union	Q:	13362	12459	12163	4972	1631
	\$:	29.70	29.99	25.81	9.89	4.16
South East Asia	Q:	65283	61110	98421	105940	17824
	\$:	63.84	58.13	93.35	118.02	18.64
Middle East	Q:	1404	1432	1158	1854	1382
	\$:	3.67	4.27	3.26	5.03	3.00
Others	Q:	188	198	1364	1611	563
	\$:	0.97	0.51	1.64	2.41	0.59
Total	Q:	86986	82558	123213	125561	24708
	\$:	133.07	125.49	159.60	175.96	35.96

Source: MPEDA

(e) The Government of India have been implementing a number of schemes through MPEDA for boosting the exports of fish and fishery products from India to various markets. Some of the important schemes are: (i) Reduction of threshold limit from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 1 crore under Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme for duty free import of essential machinery and equipment (ii) Notification of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for export of fish and fishery products, (iii) Permission for debonding of existing Export Oriented

Units (EOU) under zero custom duty scheme under EPCG. (iv) Additional entitlement of 5% SIL (Special Import Licence) to units having Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP). (v) Introduction of a scheme for subsidising interest on bank loans upto a maximum of 7% of interest over and above a base rate of 7% for modernisation and upgradation of processing plants besides providing capital subsidy. (vi) Necessary training programmes have been arranged for the processing industry in HACCP and good manufacturing practices (GMP) (vii) Technical and financial assistance is being extended to the aquaculture farmers to take up disease free sustainable aquaculture.

A target of US\$ 1330 Million has been fixed for the export of fish and fishery products from India for the year 1998-99; whereas targets for the year 2000 and 2001 are yet to be set.

Steel Plant by MMTC in Orissa

3358. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to unstarred Question No. 1034 dated December 4, 1998 and state:

(a) the arrangements made in the selection and appointments of employees in this particular unit in Orissa from Executive posts to class IV category of service;

(b) the total number of such employees now working there at present; and

(c) the number of these employees have been recruited through local employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Sir, the selection is made in NINL by a Committee of Experts. The applications are invited through Press Advertisement, Employment Exchange and also by contacting various organisations like Steel Authority of India Limited, Tata Iron and Steel Company, Vizag Steel Plant, Nippon Denro Ispat Group, MECON etc.

(b) As on the 1st December, 1998 a total of 144 employees are working in NINL comprising 103 executive and 41 non-executive.

(c) Number of employees recruited through local employment exchanges is 8.

Non-Payment of benefits to Unit Holders of UTI

3359. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Unit Trust of India are often depriving the unit holders and investors of due benefits announced in their various investment schemes;

(b) whether the bonus amount payable under the MISR 1993 scheme in the third year of its operation has not been paid to a large number of unit holders;

(c) whether complaints received from the unit holders for non-payment of bonus under the said scheme have not been redressed for years by the UTI.

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make an inquiry into such malpractices adopted by the UTI and take suitable action in order to safeguard the interests of investors of this financial institution; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) According to the Unit Trust of India (UTI), all the matured income schemes of UTI have given more than or equal to the indicative returns. There was no assurance given for a bonus at the end of the third year for MISB 1993 scheme (Monthly Income Unit Scheme with Bonus - 1993).

(c) to (e) Not applicable as no bonus was declared under the scheme.

[*Translation*]

Filling up of Vacancies in WCL

3360. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 21 candidates were selected recently for appointment to the post of mining supervisor 'Mining Sardar' by the Western Coalfields Ltd., Maharashtra whereas there are about 80 vacancies in all;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the works of company have been obstructed due to not filling up the above vacancies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which remaining posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) As reported by Coal India Ltd., as against around 100 vacancies of mining personnel, 50 local candidates, i.e. 33 from Maharashtra & 17 from Madhya Pradesh, were appointed by the management of Western Coalfields Limited. Some mining sardars are expected to join Western Coalfields Limited on transfer from Eastern Coalfields Limited and decision on appointment against remaining vacancies, if any, will be taken subsequently.

(c) No, Sir.

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

(e) Remaining vacancies are likely to be filled up shortly first by transfer from ECL & then from the select panel.

[English]

Fraud in Vijaya Bank

3361. DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CBI has investigated a Rs. 117 crore fraud in Vijaya Bank and filed a case against the ex-Chairman;

(b) if so, the details of the CBI case and the present status thereof; and

(c) the number of cases of banking norms violations that came to light in the last three years and the action taken thereon, case-wise and bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Vijaya Bank has reported that certain irregularities were observed by the bank relating to advances granted by the bank of M/s. P.J. Pipes and Vessels Pvt Ltd. (PJPVL). The internal investigation by the bank revealed lapses on the part of the officials of the bank and also diversion of the funds by the borrowing company. Based on the findings the bank had filed a suit against the company in May, 1996 claiming Rs. 117.07 crores. The matter was referred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in August, 1995 with the request to register a regular case for further investigation

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) at the instance of Government of India also conducted a detailed scrutiny of the account and the report of the RBI was sent to the CBI by the Government with the request to register the case and investigate the case thoroughly. The CBI has since registered a case against two former whole time directors of the bank and also three directors of the company.

(c) The RBI does not compile data of cases of violation of banking norms in public sector banks. Violation of banking norms could be either of a substantive or a procedural nature and having regard to the large number of bank branches and the number of transactions that take place in each branch, such data is not compiled.

[Translation]

Reappointment in IFCI

3362. SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some retired officers of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. who have completed sixty years of age have been re-employed on contract basis in the subsidiaries of the Corporation like Management Development Institute, Gurgaon, Labour Development Institute, Jaipur and Tourism Finance Corporation Ltd. of India;

(b) if so, the names of the re-employed officers and the reasons for their re-employment;

(c) whether re-employing the retired officers on contract basis has only adverse impact on the future promotion of rest of the employees and increase in unemployment; and

(d) if so, the justification behind re-employment of such officers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI) has reported that there are no Officers of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India who have completed 60 years of age and have been re-employed on contract basis in the Subsidiaries or the Organisations promoted by the Corporation. Management Development Institute (MDI), Institute of Labour Development (ILD), Tourism Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (TFCI), are however not the subsidiaries of IFCI Ltd., but promoted by IFCI Ltd. However some organisations promoted by IFCI Ltd. have at their discretion, based on their

requirement, suitability, etc., availed the services of some retired persons. The details of such persons are as under:

Name of the Institution	Name of the Person	Position
Management Development Institute (MDI)	Shri J.L. Mehta	Registrar & Secretary
IFCI Financial Services Ltd. (I-Fin)	Shri Bhawani Singh Shri Prakash Chand	Personal Assistant Personal Assistant

(c) No, Sir. It did not have adverse impact on the future promotion of any of the existing employees in the aforesaid organisations as there was no suitable candidate within MDI, whereas in I-Fin the position of Personal Assistant is the junior most.

(d) Does not arise.

Tourist Spots of Munger, Bihar

3363. SHRI BIJOY KUMAR 'BIJOY': Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring historical and religious sites in Munger district of Bihar like Chandika Sthan, Sita Kund, Bheem Bandh, Rishi Kund, Raja Meer Karim's Fort etc. on the tourist map;

(b) if is, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any scheme to include these sites in tourism list is under consideration of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) to (c) Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments every year on the basis of specific project proposals as per guidelines and availability of funds. For the year 1998-99, the Union Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government of Bihar has prioritised 12 projects amounting to Rs. 325 lakhs including construction of Tourist Reception Centre at Munger.

In 1991-92 the Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 16.88 lakhs for a Tourist Complex at Munger.

Fair of Bhagalpur, Bihar

3364. SHRI PRABHASH CHANDRA TIWARI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a fair is held in the month of July-August at Sultanganj in Bhagalpur district of Bihar where lakhs of people of the country and abroad come and carry 'Ganga Jal' from 'Uttarvahini Ganga' to be the same at Vaidnath Dham;

(b) whether the Government propose to declare Sultanganj fair as the National fair;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) The State Government of Bihar provides some facilities for tourists during this fair which is known as Shravani Mela.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No such proposal has been received by the Ministry of Tourism from the State Government of Bihar.

[English]

Free Commercial Zone for Thiruppur

3365. SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intend to make Thiruppur in Tamil Nadu, a Super Free Commercial Zone to facilitate the exporters of Banians to expand and development of exports of Banians abroad;

(b) the details of the foreign exchange earnings out of Banian knitted goods exported from Thiruppur; and

(c) the step taken/grants given to Banian Industry to earn more foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(b) State-wise/City-wise export data is not maintained. However the total exports of knitted garments from India during January-September, 1998 have been reported to be U.S.\$ 1217.10 million (Provisional).

(c) Government have been taking a number of steps to boost exports of garments including banian, on a regular basis. such as encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangements for duty free import of raw materials; ensuring increased availability of export credit, etc.

M.S.K. Mill, Gulbarga, Karnataka

3366. SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the M.S.K. Mill, Gulbarga is situated in backward region of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the date of its closure alongwith the number of unemployed workers;

(c) whether the salaries are providing;

(d) whether the Government are considering to revive it;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) M.S.K. Mills, a unit of NTC (APKK&M) Ltd. Bangalore is situated in Gulbarga Distt. of Karnataka which is among the industrially lesser developed Districts in the State.

(b) The mill is not closed. However, production activities have stopped since 1.12.97. It had 540 permanent and 248 Badi/Casual workmen as on 14.12.98.

(c) The permanent workers of MSK Mills are being paid idle wages.

(d) to (f) On the basis of a unit-wise viability study conducted by NTC a revised turn around plan for the viable subsidiaries of NTC alongwith the viable mills under them based on the BIFR norm of net worth of these mills turning positive within the prescribed period is under consideration. The interest of the workers will be kept in view in the revival plan.

Bombay Stock Exchange Index

3367. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether SEBI has issued any guidelines for issue of indices by Stock Exchanges on day to day transaction basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the action taken by the Government or SEBI to issue guidelines to streamline the procedure for issuing the sensitive indices by the Stock exchanges, particularly Bombay Stock Exchange sensitive index based on 30 scrips?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Government or SEBI do not have any proposal to issue any guidelines in this regard.

Development of Tourist Infrastructure in Manipur

3368. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Task Force on North-East constituted by his Ministry has identified a number of places in Manipur for development of tourism infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details of those places in the State; and

(c) the financial assistance sanctioned and released to Manipur for development of tourism during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Task Force in its report 'Development through Tourism in the North Eastern States' has identified Imphal, Ukhrul, Mao and Tamenglong as major tourist centres in Manipur for development.

(c) During the last three years Ministry of Tourism has extended Central financial assistance to State Government of Manipur as per the following details:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Amt. Sanc.	Amt. Released (in installments)
1995-96	75.81	36.28
1996-97	51.90	22.00
1997-98	186.11	56.35

[Translation]

Funds for Revival of Sick PSUs

3369. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allocate funds for the revival of sick units of public sector;

(b) if so, the names of such sick industries to whom funds have been allocated and the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for financial assistance during the last one year;

(d) whether any public sector in Madhya Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir have demanded financial assistance in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) Subject to availability of resources, need based budgetary

support are provided to Public Enterprises including sick central PSUs on merits. As per Expenditure Budget 1998-99, the Public Enterprises, in general, were allocated Rs. 56,542 crores during 1997-98 (RE) as Plan Outlay and Non-Plan Loan. The PSU-wise details are available at Statement no. 9 & 14 of the Expenditure Budget for 1998-99, which has been laid on the table of the House and is a published document.

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

[English]

Export of Computer Software

3370. PROF. P.J. KURIEN:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of computer software during each of the last three years and actual achievement made thereon in these years;

(b) whether efforts are being made by the Government to increase the export of computer software; and

(c) the projection made for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The details of the targets fixed and actual exports during the last three years of computer software are given below:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Target	Actual Export Performance
1995-96	2180	2650
1996-97	3933	4113
1997-98	6518	6800

(Source: Electronics & Computer Software EPC).

Government has been making continuous efforts for increasing the export of computer software which include mounting of delegations, Buyer-Seller meets, market surveys, exchange of information and by liberalising the provisions of the Exim-Policy. The projections for the export of software during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are given below:-

	(Rs. Crores)	
	1998-99	1999-2000
Target	10997	18,695
Projected growth	61.72%	70%

(Source: Electronics & Computer Software EPC)

Delicensing of Alcohol/Tobacco/ Petroleum Products

3371. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI GIRAJALA VENKAT SWAMY NAIDU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to delicense the manufacturing of alcohol, tobacco and petroleum products, such as motor-spirit etc.;

(b) if so, the date by which it is likely to be delicensed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) Government has already de-licensed industrial alcohol and petroleum (other than crude) and its distillation products. Review of industries to be retained under compulsory licensing under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 is a continuous process and no timeframe has been formulated for further de-licensing of industries.

[Translation]

Nationalised Banks

3372. SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total amount deposited in these branches and the amount invested by these branches during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether these branches have invested less amount than the deposit;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the amount provided as loan by these branches during the above period; and

(f) the steps taken to recover these loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) State/Union Territory-wise number of branches of scheduled commercial banks including nationalised banks as at the end of June 1998 is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) and (e) State/Union Territory-wise aggregate deposits, gross bank credit and investments of all scheduled commercial banks during the last three years are given in the Statement-II and III respectively.

(c) and (d) The resources mobilised by banks as deposits are deployed by them in the form of credit and investments in Government securities, Shares/Debentures/Bonds/Commercial Paper etc. The flow of funds from scheduled commercial banks to commercial sector in the form of bank credit (other than food credit) and investments in shares/debentures/bonds/commercial paper etc. increased by Rs. 51,601 crore during the year 1997-98 as against an increase of Rs. 30,631 crore during the year 1996-97. During the current financial year 1998-99 upto October 9, 1998, increase in non-food credit to the commercial sector by scheduled commercial banks was of the order of Rs. 6,972 crore (2.2 per cent) as against Rs. 4,686 crore (1.7 per cent) in the corresponding period of last year.

(f) Reserve Bank of India have advised the nationalised banks to bring improvement in recovery of loans by setting up recovery cells, recovery of Non-Performing Assets and that the performance in this regard to be monitored by the banks' top management. Debt Recovery Tribunals have also been set up at various places to assist in the speedy recovery of bank dues.

Statement I

State/Union Territory-wise number of Branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks as at the end of June 1998 (Latest Available)

State/Union Territory	No. of Branches
1	2
1. Andhra Pradesh	4971
2. Arunachal Pradesh	68
3. Assam	1235
4. Bihar	4970
5. Goa	300
6. Gujarat	3552
7. Haryana	1438
8. Himachal Pradesh	774
9. Jammu & Kashmir	802
10. Karnataka	4565
11. Kerala	3149
12. Madhya Pradesh	4428
13. Maharashtra	6076
14. Manipur	86
15. Meghalaya	179

	1	2
16. Mizoram		78
17. Nagaland		71
18. National Capital Territory of Delhi		1288
19. Orissa		2177
20. Punjab		2439
21. Rajasthan		3264
22. Sikkim		42
23. Tamil Nadu		4659
24. Tripura		181
25. Uttar Pradesh		8797
26. West Bengal		4347
27. Andaman & Nicobar Island		31
28. Chandigarh		154
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		10
30. Daman & Diu		13
31. Lakshadweep		9
32. Pondicherry		77
All India		64230

Statement II

State-wise/Union Territory-wise Deposits and Credit of all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the last Friday of March 1996, March 1997 and March 1998

(Rs. in Lakh)

State/Union Territory	March 1996		March 1997		March 1998	
	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit	Deposit	Credit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	2160476	1746052	2585033	2006105	3161864	2280970
2. Arunachal Pradesh	35967	3743	39393	4226	41276	5420
3. Assam	439272	172613	508388	178869	602158	197824
4. Bihar	1792166	573159	2122237	646725	2566789	706127
5. Goa	312739	84192	383351	95729	455606	112019
6. Gujarat	2526528	1339306	2905936	1444902	3482337	1679161
7. Haryana	893049	410782	1035449	442175	1218827	522769
8. Himachal Pradesh	313893	81004	367640	86090	437348	94471
9. Jammu & Kashmir	403149	154012	471694	182935	580584	216888
10. Karnataka	2325777	1620536	2635740	1884170	3188243	2175261
11. Kerala	1979283	898457	2299527	1078287	2720087	1204461
12. Madhya Pradesh	1565113	893428	1812735	948613	2329851	1198607

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13. Maharashtra		8917262	6751864	10195367	6999819	11755138	8497704
14. Manipur		23093	12406	26421	15195	28343	16657
15. Meghalaya		73009	10505	89162	12724	101934	15459
16. Mizoram		20929	3385	28455	3990	21356	4949
17. Nagaland		37740	10348	48957	11768	54490	9986
18. National Capital Territory of Delhi		4247663	3174467	4884727	3267638	6133932	3796259
19. Orissa		600596	329182	715272	350449	881754	398440
20. Punjab		2007545	840690	2304276	901508	2751761	1062823
21. Rajasthan		1201711	560187	1405530	621528	1684276	798791
22. Sikkim		20589	3968	23998	4241	27091	5788
23. Tamil Nadu		2905234	2940978	3248697	3259704	3925861	3772299
24. Tripura		58122	24461	69374	26150	83225	28267
25. Uttar Pradesh		4145081	1419491	4830415	1526876	5875993	1680530
26. West Bengal		3112703	1735155	3645008	1824074	4440122	2047208

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		15308	2520	18859	3024	23727	3583
28. Chandigarh		375077	520455	406142	357425	497499	288739
29. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		5987	1240	8171	1516	10015	2141
30. Daman & Diu		16838	3925	20579	4515	24536	5054
31. Lakshadweep		2478	237	3093	271	3224	319
32. Pondicherry		72939	30574	88115	32421	96661	34733
All India		42607337	26353322	49222743	28223660	59206807	32863710

Statement III

State/Union Territory-wise Investments of Scheduled Commercial Banks as on the last Friday of March 1994, March 1995 and March 1996 (Latest Available)

(Rs. in Lakh)

State Name	March 1994	March 1995	March 1996
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	251039	278993	301003
2. Arunachal Pradesh	1633	1960	2501
3. Assam	77974	92611	100757
4. Bihar	286228	317759	349321
5. Chandigarh	—	—	229

	1	2	3	4
6. Delhi		14894	14873	14544
7. Goa		3987	4464	4524
8. Gujarat		192369	204553	209719
9. Haryana		77639	85928	93783
10. Himachal Pradesh		26638	34132	37554
11. Jammu & Kashmir		40566	45653	47466
12. Karnataka		162849	177245	189209
13. Kerala		166391	193703	212369
14. Madhya Pradesh		232501	254875	269617
15. Maharashtra		284898	301996	309354
16. Manipur		7562	8606	9301
17. Meghalaya		12460	14284	15174
18. Mizoram		250	1020	2190
19. Nagaland		10735	11808	13746
20. Orissa		156645	181973	202084

1	2	3	4
21. Pondicherry	25	25	25
22. Punjab	81539	93181	105468
23. Rajasthan	195153	231865	240866
24. Sikkim	2538	3293	16101
25. Tamil Nadu	246319	270259	285389
26. Tripura	8362	9518	10370
27. Uttar Pradesh	474019	540487	595845
28. West Bengal	260800	283584	301616
All India	3276013	3658450	3940125

[English]

Tea and Coffee Plantation

3373. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acres of land in Orissa brought under Tea and Coffee plantation so far;

(b) the Tea and Coffee production in that State during 1997-98;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring additional hectares of land under Tea and coffee plantation in that State; and

(d) if so, the programmes drawn up in that regard for the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The total area under tea and coffee plantation in Orissa is 219.00 and 1600 hectares respectively.

(b) The production of tea and coffee in the State of Orissa during 1997-98 were as follows:—

Tea	—	90,000 kg.
Coffee (Arabica)	—	80 MTs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Tea Board is implementing a scheme called New Area Development Scheme during the Ninth Plan Period for encouraging tea cultivation in identified non-traditional areas including Orissa.

Coffee Board is also implementing a "Project for consolidation and Expansion of Coffee by Tribal and Small Growers" during the Ninth Plan Period in the State of Orissa.

Import of Gold

3374. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per World Gold Council's report due to the sanctions imposed by some countries on India, the demand at gold has dropped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total gold imported during the third quarter of 1998 ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The World Gold Council has mentioned a number of reasons for decline in the demand for gold during the third quarter of 1998. While it is true that the import of gold during the third quarter of 1998 is comparatively less as compared to the first two quarters, the over all imports, during the first three quarters of 1998 are much higher as compared to the corresponding period of 1997.

(b) Comparative figures of Gold imported under different schemes during the first three quarters of 1997 and 1998 are as follows:

Import of gold scheme-wise for the year 1997 and 1998

Qty. in tonnes.

	1997				1998			
	N.R.I.	SIL	OGL	Total	NRI	SIL	OGL	Total
1st Qtr.	94.032	9.96	—	93.992	55.103	.577	156.24	211.92
2nd Qtr.	99.83	16.453	—	116.282	25.176	.028	122.336	147.541
3rd Qtr.	106.42	24,522	—	130.941	7.13	.331	101.046	108.507

(c) The total import of gold during the third quarter of 1998 was 108.507 M.T.

Target Fixed for Tax Collections

3375. SHRI E. AHAMED:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
DR. SUSHIL INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced some new schemes for the benefit of income tax payee during 1998-99;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of new I.T. payee registered;

(c) whether the Government have achieved the target fixed for collection of Income Tax and other taxes during 1998-99, till date;

(d) if so, the amount collected from each category of income tax and other tax payee, separately during the above period;

(e) the extent to which these figures have increased/declined as compared to the same period of 1997-98; and

(f) the other steps being taken by the Government to achieve the fixed target?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The Finance (No. 2) Act, 1998 introduced One-by-Six Scheme with a view to widening the tax base. Under this scheme, the obligation to file the return is on fulfilling any one of the six prescribed economic criteria if the person is not already filing return. This is the extended and expanded version of the earlier provision where the obligation to file the return of income was on fulfilling any two of the four economic criteria. The Scheme is now applicable to 35 notified cities. The scheme is aimed at adding new assesseees. The number of returns filed under the scheme is not separately maintained. However, 21.02 lakh new assesseees have been added in the current year till October, 1998 which also includes returns filed under the Scheme.

The "Kar Vivad Samadhan Scheme" has also been introduced during 1998-99 for the benefit of income tax payers with the objective of settlement of disputes and collection of arrears. It does not have the objective of registering the new income-tax payers.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The collection made so far in respect of Corporation Tax, Income Tax and Interest Tax in aggregate is generally as per the target.

(f) Apart from normal statutory process of recovery, the Department is constantly monitoring the progress in Dossier cases involving high demands. A Task Force has been constituted to strictly monitor revenue collection. Computerisation of TDS Wing and Arrear Demand Registers will also boost up collection in respect of smaller demands.

Indo-US MoU on Essential Commodities and Technologies

3376. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SHANKER PRASAD JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent talks with the US team in New Delhi, India had asked the US for the proper implementation of 1984 Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding on essential commodities and technologies; and

(b) if so, the details of commodities sought to be imported under the Memorandum of Understanding in

question, indicating the details of the MoU forming the basis of transfer of the commodities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) There is no Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on essential commodities between India and the US, and the question of import of these commodities under such an MoU does not arise.

However, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India and the Government of the United States of America on the Export from the United States of America to India of sensitive Commodities, Technologies and Technical Data was signed in 1984. This MoU was not an Agenda item for discussion during the meeting held in November, 1998 between the Indian and the US delegations on the subject of export controls.

[Translation]

Schemes for Development of Tourism

3377. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new schemes launched for promotion of tourism in the country during the last six months;

(b) the places of tourist attraction where these schemes are being implemented; and

(c) the incentives provided to the domestic and foreign tourist during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) To promote Pilgrim Tourism, Buddha Mahotsav was organised by the Ministry of Tourism in the State of UP and Bihar in October/November, 1998. It has also been proposed to observe the year April 99—March 2000 as the Visit India Year. As a part of the India Tourism Week celebrations from 19th to 25th January, 1999, a Tourism Expo is also being organised on a large scale.

(b) The Ministry of Tourism has provided Central financial assistance for the following centres:

1. Sound and Light Show at Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.
2. Illumination in four Gurudwaras in Anandpur Sahib, Punjab.

3. Sound and Light Show at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh.
4. Illumination of Mahabodhi Temple at Bodhgaya, Bihar.
5. High Mast light at Tihar Lake, Illumination in Naini Lake, Model Town, Delhi.
6. Purchase of Equipments for Cave Adventure Tourism, Meghalaya.

(c) Ministry of Tourism has not given any direct incentives to domestic and foreign tourists.

Production of Tea

3378. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of tea produced in the country per year; and

(b) the quantum of tea exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The production of tea during the last three years were as follows:

(In Million kgs.)	
Year	Quantity
1995	756.02
1996	780.03
1997	810.61

(b) During 1997-98 the quantum of tea exported was 211.76 million kg. and the foreign exchange earned was Rs. 1953.91 crores.

[English]

Textile Debt Recovery Fund

3379. SHRI T.R. BAALU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the scheme instituted by Sri Lankan Government namely "Textile debt recovery fund" and institute similar scheme to take over

all the responsibility of loans and outstanding of textile mills and announce moratorium on loan recovery to save the textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of alternative schemes formulated by the Government to save the textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (b) A Statement is attached.

(c) A Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme is proposed to be launched to encourage investment in new technology. The scheme intends to give accent to the post spinning sub sectors (weaving, processing and garments) to be financed by the financial institutions with the Government extending an interest incentive of 5 percentage points. Also, a Cotton Technology Mission has been proposed for cotton development aiming to cover in a coordinated fashion different areas like increasing productivity, improving research, marketing and post harvest activities.

Statement

According to available information, a scheme called the Textile Debt Recovery Fund (TDFR) was reportedly announced by the Government of Sri Lanka in February, 1998 to provide relief to and restructure the Sri Lankan textile manufacturing sector whose debts were then estimated to be Sri Lankan Rupees 400 crores. The TDFR is to assume all outstanding long and medium term overdrafts, trust receipts, import loans and discounted bills of textile firms together with accrued interest as of October 31, 1997. The manufacturers are obliged to repay only principal amount to relevant Commercial Banks after a grace period ranging from 3 to 7 years on a case by case basis. The transfer of manufacturers debts to the TDFR is intended to enable Commercial Banks to extend further financial assistance to textile manufacturers including for modernization and restructuring. In certain cases textile firms would receive benefits such as those available to export units without necessarily acquiring any liability to export. Concessional rates of corporate taxes may also apply.

The lending institutions normally consider questions of loan recovery, and loan restructuring as per extant instructions and guidelines.

Hardships Faced by Indian Students

3380. SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken notice of the tremendous financial hardships being faced by Indian students studying in USA, UK, Australia, Canada and other foreign countries due to sharp depreciation of rupee during the last one year;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the feasibility of providing exchange to such students at reasonable rate;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) At present, Indian students studying abroad are allowed to draw foreign exchange directly from authorised dealers on the basis of *bona fides*. Earlier quantitative restrictions on amount have been removed. They can buy foreign exchange at the exchange rate prevailing in the market. India has accepted obligations under Sections 2, 3 and 4 of Article VIII of the IMF's Articles of Agreement with effect from August 20, 1994. The members of the IMF accepting the obligations of the Article VIII agree to refrain, *inter alia* from engaging in discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices. Accordingly, providing foreign exchange to students studying in foreign countries at an exchange rate other than that determined by the market is not feasible.

[Translation]

Powerloom Industry in Itawa

3381. SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether powerloom industry at Itawa in Uttar Pradesh is on the verge of closure due to the indifferent attitude of the State Government which may render around 50 thousand weavers jobless;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to chalk out any programme to revive the above said industry by intervening into the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the programme of the Government to provide means of livelihood to these weavers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) No information has been received about any specific crisis in the powerloom sector in Itawah, U.P.

(b) to (d) The Government have taken the following steps for improving the powerloom sector.

(i) Setting up of powerloom service centre all over the country.

(ii) Setting up of computer aided design centres to provide design development and support to powerloom sector.

(iii) Setting up of Powerloom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) to promote development and improvement in exports.

(iv) Providing special quota for powerloom exporters to the extent of 10%.

(v) Implementation of insurance scheme for powerloom weavers actively involving the state Governments.

(vi) Launching a scheme for strengthening of the powerloom service centres.

(vii) Proposing to implement a scheme for technology upgradation of productive equipment *inter alia* in the powerloom sector.

[English]

Heavy Engineering Corporation

3382. CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD: SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the retirement and other benefits to the retiring employees of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi are not being released in time for the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to release their due amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) BIFR package for revival is under implementation in Heavy

Engineering Corporation (HEC). Government is releasing fund to the company as per the package. already Rs. 71 crore have been released for payment towards statutory liabilities and other dues like pressing creditors etc. Against employees related dues of Rs. 30.85 crore envisaged in the BIFR package, a sum of Rs. 39 crore has been paid by the Company.

Employees at the time of retirement are entitled to Contributory Provident Fund, Gratuity, Leave Salary and Travel Allowance. No payment is pending against Contributory Fund. Gratuity & Leave Salary have been cleared for the employees who retired upto August, 1997 and claims against Travel Allowance upto June, 1996. Some other dues on account of pay revision arrears and leave travel Allowance are also being cleared. The performance of the company is far below the projections made in the revival plan. This is resulting in continuous losses making it difficult for the company to pay the dues in time. Hence it is making payments in chronological order as per the date of retirement.

Coin Counters at RBI, Bangalore

3383. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coin counters functioning at Reserve Bank of India, Bangalore;

(b) the average worth of coins issued per day;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that middlemen vend coins on commission outside the RBI; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that coins are given to only genuine traders who come forward with proof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) On an average, coins are issued daily across 6 counters at Reserve Bank of India, Bangalore.

(b) On an average, coins worth Rs. 3.07 lakh are issued daily.

(c) No Sir. However, there have been some Press reports and periodic surprise checks have been conducted by the officers of the RBI as well as by the police but no unauthorised persons vending coins could be found outside RBI offices.

(d) Any individual or a representative of an organisation is supplied coins at the RBI counter as a matter of daily routine. Coins are also supplied to various Associations and Bodies representing traders and other service organisations like hoteliers, emporia, merchants etc. The Reserve Bank of India has taken the following steps to guard against blackmarketing of coins:—

(i) Security Officers restrict entry into the banking halls to about 50-60 persons at a time and ensure that they leave as soon as their work is over.

(ii) General public requiring small quantities are given preference during the first two hours i.e. from 10 A.M. to 12 Noon.

(ii) Arrangements have been made to distribute coins from selected branches of public sector banks located in various parts of the country.

[*Translation*]

Fraud in Allahabad Bank

3384. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a fraud of illegal withdrawal of 1,50,000 rupees by fake signature in Allahabad Bank, Kanpur (U.P.) has come to light;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have ordered any probe into it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Allahabad Bank has reported that no case of fraud through illegal withdrawal of Rs. 1,50,000 by fake signature at Kanpur branch (U.P.) of the bank has come to light.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

*[English]***Constitution of Tourism Development Board**

3385. SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to constitute a Tourism Development Board for Development of tourism;

(b) if so, the time by which the Board will be constituted;

(c) whether the representatives from 5 Star Hotels, Tourism Department, States, Cultural Organizations, politicians be included on the Board; and

(d) how the expenditure of the Board will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to reconstitute the Board of Tourism Industry and Trade as National Tourism Advisory Council.

(c) The members of the Council include representatives of all the State Governments and the industry associations. It also includes some members of the Parliament and experts.

(d) The expenditure of the council will be met by the Ministry of Tourism.

Decrease in Foreign Tourists

3386. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any decrease in the number of foreign tourists during the first six months of 1998 in comparison with same period during 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent of loss of foreign exchange suffered due to such decrease; and

(d) the steps taken to boost the tourism in the country to earn more foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The tourist traffic during the first six months of the year 1998 registered a positive growth of 1.3% as compared to corresponding period of the previous year. The slow growth is primarily due to economic crisis in South East Asian countries, general economic recession, fall in business tourists, etc.

(c) The estimated foreign exchange earning from tourism during the first eleven months of the year is Rs. 10369 crores as compared to Rs. 9807 crores during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(d) Steps taken to boost tourism in the country include improvement of infrastructural facilities for tourism, development of tourist attractions, strengthening of publicity and promotional efforts, human resource development & encouraging private investment, special events like Buddha Mahotsav, Visit India Year, etc.

Protective Law under WTO

3387. SHRI K. P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European Union and the U.S. Trade Department are using protective laws under the WTO agreement against Indian exports; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government with the European Union and the United States to protect the interest of Indian exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The WTO agreements and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) do not allow restrictions on international trade, except under certain exceptional provisions of the GATT. Even measures falling under such provisions cannot be applied in an arbitrary or discriminatory manner or as disguised restrictions on international trade.

Whenever, protectionist measures taken by other WTO Members, including the European Union and the US come to light, Government takes appropriate action. Recently, for example, trade restrictions imposed by another WTO Member for environmental purposes were successfully challenged by India under the WTO Dispute Settlement Mechanism.

[*Translation*]**Shortage of Coal in BCCL and CCL**

3388. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any shortage has been found in the stock of coal in Bharat Cooking Coal Limited and CCL;

(b) if so the details of the shortage of stock found during the last two years, till October 31, 1998 alongwith the names of the collieries;

(c) the reasons for shortage in the stock;

(d) the officers found responsible for this shortage; and

(e) the action taken against these officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Colliery-wise details of stock shortages in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited. (CCL) as reported by Coal India Limited (CIL) as on 1.4.97 and 1.4.98 are as under:

As on 1.4.97		As on 1.4.98	
Colliery	Shortage in tonnes	Colliery	Shortage in tonnes
BCCL		BCCL	
1. Jagidih	21,539	1. N. Mudidih	1,53,586
2. Maheshpur	7,310	2. Ramkanali	1,01,960
3. E. Katras	5,097	3. Sendra/Bansojora	25,382
4. Balihari	61,498	4. Tetulmari	59,594
5. Ghanoodih	3,10,011	5. N. Tisra U.G.	17,904
6. Goluckdih	68,026	6. Jeenagora	21,484
CCL		CCL	
1. Lapanga	5298	Nil	

Coal India has reported that mine-wise inventory of coal stock is physically assessed independently by Coal India Limited Survey Team in April every year. As such stock shortage as on 31.10.98 cannot be stated correctly.

(c) The reasons for stock shortages are reported as under:—

(i) Reporting of production in excess of what was actually produced.

(ii) Not providing adequate discount in the reported production for the mixed stones raised with coal.

(iii) Inadequate/improper assessment of physical stock.

(iv) Deterioration in Stock.

(v) Theft/pilferage.

(vi) Incorrect assessment due to heavy stock built up.

(d) The Managers, Agents and the General Managers of the Colliery during the relevant period have been held *prima facie* responsible for the shortage.

(e) In the case of shortage as on 1.4.97, Department proceedings were taken up and most of the cases are at the conclusion stage. In so far as shortage as on 1.4.98 are concerned, charge sheets have been issued to the concerned Officers.

[English]

Anti-Dumping Duty

3389. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply to USQ. No. 2378 given on July 3, 1998 regarding anti-dumping duties and state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Designated Authority for imposition of anti-dumping on certain cases have been finalized by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on the final decision taken by the Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As on July 3rd, 1998, two cases were pending. In both these cases final decision has been taken. Anti-dumping duty has been imposed on Vitamin-C and Bisphenol-A *vide* notification numbers 53/98-Customs dated 24.7.1998 and 63/98-Customs dated 14.8.1998 respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

Fund for Current Year of Ninth Plan

3390. SHRI M. RAJAJIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned for implementation of Ninth Plan; and

(b) the amount sanctioned/released for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be approved by the National Development Council.

(b) The Budget Estimates for Plan Expenditure for the current financial year are Rs. 72002.28 crores.

Export Potential of Electronic Hardware Industry

3391. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether electronic hardware industry is finding very difficult to realise full export potential;

(b) if so, whether the Government have announced a scheme for duty free imports of inputs for the hardware sector based on self-declaration by exporters;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(d) the manner in which the Government will tally the imports of inputs and exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A Special Advance Licence Scheme for export of electronic products has been notified on 16.9.98. The salient features of the scheme are as under:—

- (i) The manufacturer exporter registered with the Central Excise Authority and the Electronics and Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) having export performance/domestic production in preceding three licensing years will be eligible to apply under the scheme. The new exporter, without having any export performance, would also be entitled to the Advance Licence upto 50% of the average domestic production in the preceding three years or upto Rs. 50 lakhs whichever is higher.
- (ii) The licences under the scheme shall be issued with positive value addition.
- (iii) The imports under the scheme shall precede exports and such licences shall be issued with Actual User non-transferable condition.
- (iv) The Designated Officer of the Department of Electronics will verify the relevance/usability of the inputs in export product as well as the quantity required. The Designated officer shall also verify the actual utilisation of the inputs in the product exported as well as the wastages specified in the Standard Input Output Norms. Where such Standard Input Output Norms do not exist, the wastages norms shall be determined by the Designated Officer.

Under the Scheme, the manufacturer exporters are required to furnish the details of imports and exports made to the Designated Officer of the Department of Electronics on six monthly basis in the prescribed proforma.

NRI Deposits

3392. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
DR. ASIM BALA:
SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH:
SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Non-Resident Indians (NRI) deposits have shown a negative growth during the last six months;

(b) if so, the reasons for such negative growth; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the NRIs deposits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir. As per the data furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, the outstanding balances in the three NR deposit schemes are consistently on the increase in the past two years. The outstanding balances during the first quarter of 1998-99 for which information is available with the RBI also show an increasing trend as detailed below and the trend is estimated to continue. The data as on 30th September 1998 is not yet available with the RBI.

(Rs. in crores)

Deposit Account	31.3.1998	30.6.1998
FCNR (Banks)	33907	35610
NRE	21766	22548
NRNR	23350	24175

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

[*Translation*]

Loan Assistance from World Bank and other International Agencies

3393. SHRI H.P. SINGH:
SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJHARPUR):

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of loan/assistance received by the Government from World Bank and other International financial agencies as on September, 1998, agency-wise;

(b) the heads on which the said amount has been spent;

(c) the amount likely to be received as loan/assistance from World Bank and other agencies, separately during the current year;

(d) whether India is likely to get 3.5 billion IDA loan for a period of three years beginning from July 1, 1999;

(e) if so, the projects for which the loan is likely to be received;

(f) the estimated interest likely to be paid on this loan; and

(g) the manner in which the Government propose to repay this loan?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The information is given in the annexed Statement-i.

(b) The loan/assistance received by the Government has been primarily spent in Energy, Social, Irrigation, Industry, Transport, Urban development and Agricultural sectors.

(c) The information is given in the annexed Statement II.

(d) and (e) The three years period beginning from July 1, 1999 is IDA-12 period. IDA-12 is still at discussion stage.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Statement I

*Amount of Loan/Assistance Received on the Government Account from
International Financial Agencies/Countries upto 30.9.98*

(Donor Currency in Million)

Sl.No.	Institution Country	Currency	Amount utilised upto 30.9.98
1	2	3	4
1.	IDA	US Dollar	8159.900
2.	IDA	SDR	8723.677
3.	IBRD	US Dollar	12341.983
4.	IFAD	SDR	188.912
5.	Abu Dhabi Fund	UAE Dirham	68.000
6.	Austria	Austrian Schilling	1728.786
7.	Bahrain	UK Pound Sterling	5.891
8.	Belgium	Belgian Frank	5005.396
9.	Canada	Canadian Dollar	2207.853
10.	Denmark	Denmark Kroner	3155.521
11.	Denmark	US Dollar	3.984
12.	France	French Franc	11635.077

1	2	3	4
13.	Hungary	Indian Rupee	122.647
14.	IMF Trust	SDR	529.009
15.	Iraq	US Dollar	182.746
16.	Italy	Deutsche Mark	144.200
17.	Italy	Italian Lira	33125.000
18.	Italy	US Dollar	161.187
19.	Japan	Japanese Yen	1283215.175
20.	Kuwait Fund	Kuwait Dinar	93.796
21.	Netherlands	Dutch Guilder	4350.418
22.	OPEC	US Dollar	178.315
23.	Poland	Indian Rupee	366.355
24.	Qatar	UK Pound Sterling	7.158
25.	Saudi Fund	Saudi Riyal	620.813
26.	Sweden	Swiss Franc	157.000
27.	Sweden	Swedish Kroner	6787.341

1	2	3	4
28.	Switzerland	Swiss Franc	678.268
29.	UAE	US Dollar	70.000
30.	United Kingdom	UK Pound Sterling	2619.994
31.	USA	US Dollar	5815.784
32.	Yugoslavia	Indian Rupee	267.008
33.	Germany	Deutsche Mark	11812.985
34.	Rep. of Czech & Slovak	Indian Rupee	1570.491
35.	Iran	US Dollar	496.944
36.	Iran	SDR	438.539
37.	ISO	US Dollar	5.708
38.	Romania	Indian Rupee	53.260
39.	EEC (SAC)	UK Pound Sterling	30.332
40.	ADB	US Dollar	2290.759
41.	Australia	US Dollar	12.929
42.	Spain	US Dollar	46.000

1	2	3	4
43.	Russian Federation	Indian Rupee	31294.141
44.	Australia	Australian Dollar	166.160
45.	New Zealand	New Zealand Dollar	11.990
46.	Norway	Norway Kroner	1397.555
47.	Switzerland	Indian Rupee	123.731
48.	Ireland	Indian Rupee	0.270
49.	EEC	ECU	696.393
50.	UNEO	Indian Rupee	43.830
51.	Japanese (IBRD)	Japanese Yen	1157.524
52.	Swiss Grant (IBRD)	Swiss Franc	6.632
53.	Japanese (IDA)	Japanese Yen	85.567
54.	Netherlands (IDA)	Dutch Guilder	0.083
55.	Swiss Grant (IDA)	Swiss Franc	15.652
56.	IFAD	US Dollar	0.189

Statement II

Statement showing likely amount of Loan/Assistance to be received from the International Financial Agencies/Countries during 1998-99 (Government Account)

(Rs. Crore)

S.No.	Institution/ Country	Likely External Assistance (BE) during 1998-99
1	2	3
1.	IBRD	1651.90
2.	IDA	4232.73
3.	IFAD	55.82
4.	ADB	1000.85
5.	OPEC	17.00
6.	PPF (WB)	10.00
7.	Germany	292.50
8.	France	76.95
9.	Japan	2803.30
10.	Kuwait Fund	16.00
11.	Switzerland	17.32
12.	Canada	6.60

1	2	3
13.	Denmark	32.11
14.	Netherlands	85.40
15.	Norway	12.80
16.	Sweden	45.62
17.	United Kingdom	300.00
18.	USA	70.00
19.	EEC	195.00
20.	UNFPA	10.10
21.	UNDP	12.00
22.	UNICEF	84.00
23.	WHO	20.00
24.	UNESCO	0.21
Total		11048.01

[English]

Reward to Informer

3394. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received by him from Members regarding evasion of Income Tax etc. since August, 1998;

(b) the number of letters disposed off till now; and

(c) the time by which the rest of the letters are likely to be disposed off alongwith the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Fifteen references have been received from Honourable Members of Parliament since August, 1998 regarding evasion of Income Tax;

(b) and (c) Enquiries and Investigations on all these complaints have been initiated and necessary action under the tax laws shall be taken expeditiously on the facts and circumstances of each case.

Revival of Dunlop India Limited

3395. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI has not taken up the rehabilitation proposals of the ailing tyre company, Dunlop India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the company is on the verge of closure due to non-revival; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that M/s. Dunlop India Limited was registered with the BIFR on 3.2.1998 and was declared sick on 22.06.1998 under the Provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 (SICA).

In the BIFR hearing held on 22.06.1998, the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) was appointed as the Operating Agency (OA). IDBI has reported that it does not have any exposure either by way of loan or equity.

(c) and (d) IDBI has reported that Dunlop filed an appeal with Appellate Authority for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (AAIFR) on August 17, 1998 against the aforementioned order of BIFR. However, AAIFR is yet to hear the matter and give final verdict in the instant case. Further action will be taken by BIFR in accordance with provisions of STC.

[Translation]

Taxes Paid by Companies

3396. SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies which have not paid any tax and earned net profit of more than 50 crores of rupees per year during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the action taken by the Government to bring these companies under the purview of tax; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Import of Vitamin B1 Bulk Drug under OGL

3397. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether drug and pharmaceutical industry has requested the Government to allow import of Vitamin B1 bulk drug under Open General Licence (OGL) at zero duty;

(b) if so, whether a decision has been taken by the Government in the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The Pharmaceutical industry through their Associations had approached the Government to allow import of Vitamin B1 under OGL. However, no request for importing the same at zero duty has been received. Policy on import of Vitamin B1 is under review.

[*Translation*]

Jute Mill at Katihar

3398. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHURY:
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJHARPUR):

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether old jute mill in Katihar is lying closed since long;

(b) if so, whether the Government contemplate to revive the above said mill;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be revived; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Katihar jute mill is lying closed since December, 1987.

(b) There is no proposal before the Government to revive the closed mill at Katihar.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Hotel to Start in Cochin

3399. SHRI GEORGE EDEN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to start a STAR Hotel in Bolgatty Island (Cochin) which attracts a large number of tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry would take immediate action to develop the small islands in Arabian Sea near Cochin as a tourist centre; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) ITDC's Annual Plan 1998-99 does not envisage any plan scheme/provision for setting up a hotel in Bolgatty Island, Cochin.

(c) and (d) The development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance to State Governments on receipt of specific project proposals, after taking into consideration their *inter-se* priority and availability of funds.

Patent of Rice

3400. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thai Government made a proposal to the Indian Government to join in its battle against a Texas based Company 'Rice Tec Inc.' claiming to patent a rice variety 'JASMATI' which according to Thai Government is derived from Thailand's famed Jasmine rice;

(b) whether the said patent covers plants and grain developed from the original Basmati; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) A reference was received from Thai Government concerning the registration of trademarks *Jasmati* by Rice Tec. Inc. in America. The matter was considered and it was conveyed to Thai authorities that India would be able to help the Thai authorities in the matter.

Bilateral Negotiation on Automobile Policy

3401. SHRI D.S. AHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in "The Hindustan" dated November 9, 1998 wherein it has been stated that the European Union is likely to hold bilateral negotiations with India on the middle of December, 1998 on the country's automobile policy;

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir, The Government is aware of the News item referred to. A European Commission delegation held discussions on 18-19 Nov., 1998 at New Delhi with officials of the Ministry of Commerce and officials of other Ministries concerned and Departments of Government of India on various World Trade Organisation (WTO) issues of mutual interest. *Inter alia*, India's automobile Policy on which the European Union (EU) has sought certain clarifications also came up for discussion. Subsequently, consultations were also undertaken in early December.

(b) The meetings were in the nature of clarificatory consultations and no decisions, as such, were taken.

Duty of Rough Ophthalmic Blanks

3402. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the budget proposal the Government had protected the interest of small scale industrial units producing spectacle lenses by processing Rough Ophthalmic Blanks by keeping differential rates of Custom duty vide Notification No. 23/98-Customs dated 2.6.1998;

(b) whether the Custom Duty on the trader importers has been surprisingly reduced from 40 to 20 percent vide Notification No. 76/78-Customs dated 13.10.1998 bringing the duty at par with Manufacturer Importers;

(c) if so, the justification thereof;

(d) whether such a decision is likely to ruin the small scale industrial units engaged in this trade as these units are not able to enjoy quantity discount which goes upto 30 per cent because of their limited resources which is being enjoyed by the trader importers on account of their bulk buying; and

(e) if so, what remedial measures are proposed to be taken to safeguard the interest of SSI units?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Prior to the budget for the year 1998-99, rough ophthalmic blanks for the manufacture of optical lenses was eligible for a concessional rate of basic customs duty of 20% *ad-valorem* without any end use condition. In the budget, the concessional rate was made

subject to end use procedure. However, a number of representations were received from the optical industry all over the country for removal of the end use procedure as it was found to be cumbersome. As rough ophthalmic blanks have no other use than in the manufacture of optical lenses and in view of the representations received, the end use procedure was done away with vide notification No. 76/98-Customs dated the 13th October, 1998.

(d) and (e) The concessional rate of basic customs duty on rough ophthalmic blanks is available uniformly to all importers including those in the small scale sector. As regards the point relating to quantity discount, this is determined by market forces and the duty structure may not be a determining factor.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Reports alongwith Audited Account of the National Small Industries Corporation Ltd., New Delhi etc. and review of their working etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1935/98]

- (2) 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) S.O. 1037(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1998 notifying

the M/s. Emami Paper Mills Limited, Balasore, as a mill producing newsprint.

- (ii) S.O. 1038(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1998 notifying the M/s. Apex Paper Mills, Nagpur, as a mill producing newsprint.
- (iii) S.O. 1039(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd December, 1998 notifying the M/s. Sangal Papers Limited, Meerut, as a mill producing newsprint.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1936/98]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Agra, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1937/98]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1938/98]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1939/98]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Fragrance and Flavour Development Centre, Kannauj, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1940/98]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Process cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Process cum Product Development Centre, Meerut, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1941/98]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Central Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1942/98]

Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts of MMTC Ltd., New Delhi etc. and review of their working etc. for the year 1997-98

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Sir, on behalf of the Shri Ramakrishna Hegde, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1051(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th December, 1998 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 975(E) dated the 6th November, 1987 so as to

impose cess on export of Spices at a uniform rate of five percent *ad-valorem*.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1943/98]

(2) (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1944/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Trading Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1945/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1946/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1997-98, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1947/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1948/98]

Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts of National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd., Lucknow for the year 1997-98 etc. and review of their working etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1949/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1950/98]

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Guwahati, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1951/98]

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1952/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1953/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Textiles Committee, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith 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 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1954/98]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1955/98]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1997-98.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1956/98]

Copies of Notifications under Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980 etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:—

(i) The Bank of Baroda Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. HO: OSR & IR : A/10/13/871 in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 1998.

(ii) The Andhra Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 1998 published in Notification No. 688/20/IR/530 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 1998.

(iii) Notification No. 29/0089/PD: IRD(O) published in Gazette of India dated the

2nd May, 1998 containing corrigendum (in English version only) to the Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. 2077/S/0089/PD:IRD(O) dated the 13th September, 1997.

- (iv) Notification No. 1128/0089/PD:IRD(O) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 1998 containing corrigendum (in Hindi version only) to the Syndicate Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 1997 published in Notification No. 2077/S/0089/PD:IRD(O) dated the 13th September, 1997.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 1957/98]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) S.O. 415(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (ii) S.O. 471(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (iii) S.O. 472(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (iv) S.O. 493(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.

- (v) S.O. 527(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.

- (vi) S.O. 537(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.

- (vii) S.O. 538(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.

- (viii) S.O. 638(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.

- (ix) S.O. 639(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th July, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.

- (x) S.O. 690(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.

- (xi) S.O. 691(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.

- (xii) S.O. 726(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.

- (xiii) S.O. 727(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xiv) S.O. 791(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (xv) S.O. 790(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xvi) S.O. 828(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (xvii) S.O. 829(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xviii) S.O. 854(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (xix) S.O. 855(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xx) S.O. 886(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (xxi) S.O. 887(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xxii) S.O. 892(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (xxiii) S.O. 893(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xxiv) S.O. 932(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Imports.
- (xxv) S.O. 933(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* for the purposes of assessment of Exports.
- (xxvi) the Customs Valuation (Determination of Price of Imported Goods) Amendment Rules, 1998 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 77(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (xxvii) G.S.R. 554(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to waive duty of Customs leviable on maintenance spares imported alongwith the goods required for initial setting up of an industrial unit for the manufacture of Electronic items for the period from the 27th November, 1983 to 1st July, 1992.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 1958/98]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) S.O. No. 2035 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Chief Minister's Earthquake Relief Fund, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. No. 2036 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Madhya Pradesh Council for Child Welfare, Bhopal" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1990-91 to 1992-93 subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. No. 2037 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Society of Sisters of Charity of Saint B. Capitanio and Saint V. Gerosa, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. No. 2038 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Homi Bhabha Fellowships Council, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (v) S.O. No. 2039 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Institute of Rail Transport (Regd.), New Delhi" under

section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.

- (vi) S.O. No. 2040 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "West Bengal Council for Child Welfare, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O. No. 2041 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O. No. 2042 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O. No. 2043 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Shri Durgiana Committee (Regd.), Amritsar" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (x) S.O. No. 2044 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. No. 2045 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Lady Tata Memorial Trust, Mumbai" under section

- 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O. No. 2046 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Tata Agricultural and Rural Training Centre for the Blind, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (xiii) S.O. No. 2047 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Muncherjee Nowrojee Banajee Industrial Home for Blind, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xiv) S.O. No. 2048 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Joint Plant Committee, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O. No. 2049 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. No. 2050 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "His Holiness The Dalai Lama Charitable Trust, Dharmasala, H.P." under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. No. 2051 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Spastics Society of Eastern India, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. No. 2052 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Victoria Technical Institute, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. No. 2053 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O. No. 2054 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Bal Sahyog, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. No. 2055 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Swaminarayan Aksharpath, Ahmedabad" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. No. 2056 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1992-93 to 1994-95 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O. No. 2057 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Ramana Maharshi Centre for Learning, Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1999-2000 to 2001-02 subject to certain conditions.

- (xxiv) S.O. No. 2058 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Tribune Trust, Chandigarh" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S.O. No. 2059 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S.O. No. 2060 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O. No. 2061 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Jamnalal Bajaj Foundation, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxviii) S.O. No. 2062 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Asiatic Society of Bombay, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxix) S.O. No. 2063 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Wildlife Association of South India (WASI), Bangalore" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxx) S.O. No. 2064 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "National Centre for the Performing Arts, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxi) S.O. No. 2065 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Rashtriya Mahila Kosh, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O. No. 2066 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "German Leprosy Relief Association Rehabilitation Fund Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiii) S.O. No. 2067 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Jal Phiroj Cluhwala Dar-E-Mehar, Chennai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiv) S.O. No. 2068 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Family Planning Association of India, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxv) S.O. No. 2069 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvi) S.O. No. 2070 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998

- regarding exemption to "Indian People Natural Calamities Trust, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvii) S.O. No. 2071 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Hindu Women's Welfare Society, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxviii) S.O. No. 2072 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxix) S.O. No. 2073 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Delhi Parsi Anjuman, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1991-92 to 1993-94 subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. No. 2074 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Maratha Mandir, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xli) S.O. No. 2075 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The J.R.D. Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlii) S.O. No. 2076 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliii) S.O. No. 2077 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "S.O.S. Children's Villages of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xliv) S.O. No. 2078 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlv) S.O. No. 2080 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Nai Talim Samiti, Sevagram, Wardha, Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlvi) S.O. No. 2079 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Shri Gadge Maharaj Mission, Mumbai" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1999-2000 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlvii) S.O. No. 2081 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Sevagram Ashram Pratishthan, Sevagram (Wardha) Maharashtra" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1997-98 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlviii) S.O. No. 2082 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Mobile Creches for Working Mothers' Children, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax

- Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (xlix) S.O. No. 2083 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (i) S.O. No. 2084 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Bengal Social Service League, Calcutta" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1998-99 to 2000-01 subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. No. 2085 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Anandashram Trust, Anandashram P.O., Kanhongad, Kasargod, Kerala" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1996-97 to 1998-99 subject to certain conditions.
- (iii) S.O. No. 2087 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1993-94 to 1995-96 subject to certain conditions.
- (liii) S.O. No. 2088 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1995-96 to 1997-98 subject to certain conditions.
- (liv) S.O. No. 2089 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 regarding exemption to "Asian Institute of Transport Development, New Delhi" under section 10(23C) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the Assessment Years 1999-2000 to 2001-02 subject to certain conditions.
- (iv) S.O. No. 2086 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 1998 making certain modification in the Notification No. 10445 (F.No. 197/127/97-ITA-I) dated the 21st October, 1997 notifying Jal Phiroj Clubwala Dar-E-Mehar, Chennai.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-1959/98]
- (4) A copy of the Ad-hoc Exemption Order No. 73/11/98-CX (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to underwater cable from so much of duty of excise leviable thereon when purchased by Vivekananda Rock Memorial and Vivekananda Kendra, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-1960/98]
- (5) A copy of the Results of the Twenty-eighth Valuation of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on 31st March, 1998 (Hindi and English versions) under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-1961/98]
- (6) A copy of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Insurance Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-1962/98]
- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the United India Insurance Company Limited, Chennai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-1963/98]

(c) (i) **Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the Oriental Insurance Company Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and auditor General thereon.**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1964/98]

(d) (i) **Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the New India Assurance Company Limited, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1965/98]

(e) (i) **Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98.**

(ii) **Annual Report of the General Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 1997-98, alongwith audited accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1966/98]

(7) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts, under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.**

(ii) **Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1997-98.**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1967/98]

(8) (i) **A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.**

(ii) **A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 1997-98.**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1968/98]

(9) **A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended on the 31st March, 1998, together with Auditor's Report thereon:—**

(i) **Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary (Karnataka)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1969/98]

(ii) **South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malappuram (Kerala)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1970/98]

(iii) **Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra (Uttar Pradesh)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1971/98]

(iv) **Sahaydri Gramin Bank, Shimoga (Karnataka)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1972/98]

(v) **Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga (Karnataka)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1973/98]

(vi) **Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1974/98]

(vii) **Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar (Karnataka)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1975/98]

(viii) **Etah Gramin Bank, Etah (Uttar Pradesh)**

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1976/98]

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| <p>(ix) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1977/98]</p> | <p>(xx) Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hoshiarpur (Punjab)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1988/98]</p> |
| <p>(x) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1978/98]</p> | <p>(xxi) Patliputra Gramin Bank, Patna (Bihar)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1989/98]</p> |
| <p>(xi) Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank, Ambala (Haryana)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1979/98]</p> | <p>(xxii) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi (Himachal Pradesh)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1990/98]</p> |
| <p>(xii) Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhansi (U.P.)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1980/98]</p> | <p>(xxiii) Nalanda Gramin Bank, Nalanda (Bihar)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1991/98]</p> |
| <p>(xiii) Muzaffarnagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1981/98]</p> | <p>(xxiv) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani (Haryana)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1992/98]</p> |
| <p>(xiv) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar (Rajasthan)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1982/98]</p> | <p>(xxv) Vidur Gramin Bank, Bijnore (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1993/98]</p> |
| <p>(xv) Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank, Arrah (Bihar)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1983/98]</p> | <p>(xxvi) Alwar Bharatpur Anchalik Gramin Bank, Alwar (Rajasthan)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1994/98]</p> |
| <p>(xvi) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya (Bihar)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1984/98]</p> | <p>(xxvii) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gurdaspur (Punjab)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1995/98]</p> |
| <p>(xvii) Kapurthala Ferozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala (Punjab)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1985/98]</p> | <p>(xxviii) Puri Gramya Bank, Pipli (Orissa)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1996/98]</p> |
| <p>(xviii) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1986/98]</p> | <p>(xxix) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal (Orissa)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1997/98]</p> |
| <p>(xix) Hisar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hisar (Haryana)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1987/98]</p> | <p>(xxx) Adhyanaman Grama Bank, Dharmapuri (Tamil Nadu)</p> <p>[Placed in Library See No. LT-1998/98]</p> |

(xxxi) Kanakadurga Grameena Bank, Gudivada
(Andhra Pradesh)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1999/98]

(xxxii) Shet Venkateshwara Grameena Bank,
Chittoor (A.P.)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2000/98]

(xxxiii) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore (A.P.)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2001/98]

(xxxiv) Natravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore
(Karnataka)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2002/98]

(xxxv) Varda Grameena Bank, Kumta (Karnataka)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2003/98]

(xxxvi) Malaprabha Grameena Bank, Dharwad
(Karnataka)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2004/98]

(xxxvii) Bijapur Grameena Bank, Bijapur
(Karnataka)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2005/98]

(xxxviii) Gurgaon Gramin Bank, Gurgaon (Haryana)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2006/98]

(xxxix) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Ananthapur
(A.P.)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2007/98]

(xl) Prathama Bank, Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2008/98]

(xli) Rayalaseema Grameena Bank, Cuddapah
(A.P.)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2009/98]

(xlii) North Malabar Grameena Bank, Kannur
(Kerala)

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2010/98]

**Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts of
the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., Neyveli etc.
and review of their working etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): I beg to lay on the table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and
English versions) under sub-section (1) of section
619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the
Government of the working of the Neyveli
Lignite Corporation Limited, Neyveli, for the
year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite
Corporation Limited, Neyveli, for the year
1997-98, alongwith audited Accounts and
comments of the Comptroller and Auditor
General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2011/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working
of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited,
Kothagudem, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Singareni Collieries
Company Limited, Kothagudem, for the
year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts
and comments of the Comptroller and
Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2012/98]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and
English versions) of the Coal Mines
Provident Fund, Coal Mines Family
Pensions and Coal Mines Deposit Linked
Insurance Schemes, Dhanbad, for the year
1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English
versions) by the Government of the working
of the Coal Mines Provident Fund, Coal
Mines Family Pensions and Coal Mines
Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme,
Dhanbad, for the year 1996-97.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2013/98]

Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd., Pondicherry for the year 1997-98 etc. and Review of their working etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2014/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2015/98]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 1996-97, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 1996-97.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

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- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management, Gwalior, for the year 1997-98 alongwith Audited Accounts.

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[Placed in Library See No. LT-2017/98]

Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts of the Rehabilitation Corporation Ltd., Calcutta for the year 1997-98 etc. and review of their working etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2018/98]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited, Ranchi, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2019/98]

(c) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2020/98]

(d) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Leather Corporation Limited, Agra, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2021/98]

(e) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Instruments Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2022/98]

(f) (i) Statement regarding review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2023/98]

12.01 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statements

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the Statements showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final replies in respect of Chapter-V of the following Reports:

- (1) 98th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Wasteful expenditure on procurement of imported aircraft spares and infructuous expenditure on procurement on defective ammunition.
- (2) 135th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on Badarpur Thermal Power Project Stage-II.
- (3) 176th Report (Seventh Lok Sabha) on under utilisation of production capacity of an ordnance factory.
- (4) 19th Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on National Malaria Eradication Programme.
- (5) 31st Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Jawahar Lal Nehru University.
- (6) 160th Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on National Book Trust.
- (7) 177th Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Avoidable unnecessary imports.
- (8) 182nd Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Frauds committed by extra departmental staff.
- (9) 18th Report (Ninth Lok Saha) on Defective ammunition.
- (10) 40th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on working of Land and Development Office.

12.02 hrs.

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir with your permission, I would like to inform that during the remaining period of the current session following Government business shall be taken up in this House.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2013/98]

Annual Reports alongwith Audited Accounts of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Ltd., Pondicherry for the year 1997-98 etc. and Review of their working etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Pondicherry Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Pondicherry, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2014/98]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Madhya Pradesh Ashok Hotel Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-2015/98]

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PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Action Taken Statements

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- (8) 182nd Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) on Frauds committed by extra departmental staff.
- (9) 18th Report (Ninth Lok Saha) on Defective ammunition.
- (10) 40th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) on working of Land and Development Office.

12.02 hrs.

[Translation]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir with your permission, I would like to inform that during the remaining period of the current session following Government business shall be taken up in this House.

1. Consideration on any item of the remaining government business from the agenda of today.
2. Consideration & adoption of Patents (Amendment) Bill, 1998 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Discussion on Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the Central Vigilance Commission Ordinance, 1998 and the Central Vigilance Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 and discussion and passing of Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1998.
4. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998 and discussion & passing of Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
5. Discussion and Passing of the following Bills.
 - (a) U.P. Reorganisation Bill, 1998.

(b) Bihar Reorganisation Bill, 1998.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): We have again and again given the warning that don't do such dangerous work. It will be opposed vehemently...*(Interruptions)* Bihar willn't be allowed to divide...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It will be done in due course, you may ask...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: After the resolution, they would like to bring the bill? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAKUNI CHAUDHARY (Khagaria): This is the partition of Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Sir, rest is following:

- (c) Madhya Pradesh Re-organisation Bill, 1998
- (d) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
- (e) Customs. (Amendment), Bill, 1998
- (f) Commodity Board/Export Development Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

6. Consideration & Passing of the following bill as passed by Rajya Sabha:—

(a) Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

(b) Indian Majority (Amendment) Bill, 1997.

(c) The Administrators General (Amendment) Bill, 1998.

(d) The Merchant Shipping (Second Amendment) Bill, 1998.

7. Further discussion on the motion, in regard to 30th report presented by the then Commissioner of S/C & S/T for the year 1989-91.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Submissions.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahabubnagar): Sir I would like to make a submission. My name is not there in the List.

MR. SPEAKER: You give a notice, first.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may please be included in the next week's agenda—

1. Every member belonging to the village defence who is working as soldiers may be provided Rs. 1500 per month as honorarium and every committee should be provided with one sophisticated weapon and wireless set, so that it may be able to strongly combat foreign mercenaries.
2. One bridge across the Ravi river connecting Punjab and Jammu may be constructed soon and the persons who have been displaced due to the construction of Ranjit dam may be rehabilitated. The Central Govt. should make arrangement to provide relief to the people of Basauli, Bilawar and Bani.

DR. SUSHIL INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may please be included in next weeks agenda—

1. A decision was taken to start one regional centre in Sirsa district under the Kurukshetra

University. For this purpose more than 100 acres of land was provided by the Falkan Gram Panchyat and for which the State Govt. had already given sanction on 17th February, 1993. But since then the matter is hanging between University Grant Commission and the State Govt.

Hence, I would request the Govt. to ask the concerned departments in order to start the said centre, so that local youth of educationally backward district of Sirsa may be benefited by that centre.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to kindly include the following two items in next week's agenda.

1. Last year, on the Gandhi Jayanti Day, the hon. Chief Minister of Bihar had, for the purpose of storage of potatoes and fruits laid a foundation stone of a cold storage in the lawn of Krishi Bazar Samiti in Samastipur and Dalsinh Sarai of Samastipur district of Bihar in the presence of the then Food and Supply Minister and officers of Central Warehouse Corporation. One year has passed since then, but the construction work of that Cold Storage has yet to be started. The Govt. should take up this matter to construct a Cold Storage there.
2. Sir, Samastipur district of Bihar was a sugarcane growing area. There were two Sugar mills, one in Samastipur and the other in Hasanpur. Sugar mill owners of Samastipur made much of income but they did not do anything to modernise the mills and consequently the Mills of Samastipur become sick. After that mills were nationalised but it did not yield any positive result and the mills are closed. The Govt. should consider to restart those mills after modernising them, so that farmers of that area may get prices of their produce and they may also get employment.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the agenda for 18.12.98.

410 metre long balance cantilever bridge having 9 Span and at a distance of 262 km. was constructed across the Rapti river on national highway No. 28 in Gorakhpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Now after 34 years, that bridge is in a dilapidated condition. The traffic Pressure has increased manifold in comparison to the traffic pressure of 1964. Since that bridge is narrow and weak it is not in a position to bear the load of 40000 P.C.U. Some bearings of the suspended Span of the bridge have tilted. This is the only bridge which is used for going to Nepal besides being used for going to Bihar, Bengal and other North Eastern States. Besides, Gorakhpur being the major tourist place of northern India, a large number of domestic and foreign tourists use to come to Gorakhpur. Due to the traffic flow from the National Highway No. 29 and 28, there is a traffic jam on that bridge for hours together.

Hence, through this House I would like to request the Govt. that the proposed construction of a new bridge across the Rapti river on National Highway No. 28 of Gorakhpur may be included in the Annual plan 1998-99 of the Surface Transport Ministry.

[English]

SHRI K.P. MOHAN (Dharmapuri): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Restoration of closed railway stations all over the country including the railway station at Mettur in Dharmapuri District.
2. To prevent accidents at unmanned railway crossing by taking proper steps such as creation of gates, etc.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NARAIN MEENA (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may please be included in next week's agenda:—

To Provide proper resources

1. For the purpose of maintaining and reconstruction of canals of Parvati river, the water of which is used for irrigating agricultural land of several villages of Banra district of Rajasthan and also for the purpose of maintaining and reconstruction of old dam which is in dilapidated condition.
2. For the purpose of utilising the unutilised water of Mej river for irrigation and power generation a survey should be conducted by the Govt. and the proposed dam near Banskhara village in Bundi district of Rajasthan. The Govt. should take up the construction work of the Multipurpose Project.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following items may please be included in next week's agenda:

1. Regarding competition of all pending projects by simplifying the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill 1980 and making it practically viable.
2. Regarding preparation of Devbhog Menpur Plan on the pattern of the K.B.K. Plan of famine hit Chattisgarh area with the provision of giving full employment.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA" (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Need to revive R.P.D.S. system to provide foodgrains per unit (18 kilograms per unit per month) to ensure the supply of foodgrains in sufficient quantity in remote and hilly areas of the country under the Public Distribution System.
2. Need to conduct Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the ancient and traditional Yatra route in Pithoragarh district of U.P. Thank you.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): The following item may be included in next week's agenda:—

The time has come when a draconian law like TADA should be totally done away with. Parliament has already disapproved it as a law for prospective application. As for old cases, the TADA can continue to be applied to cases such as Rajiv Gandhi Assassination case and cases relating to terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab provided these are dealt with absolutely fairly. The rest of the cases should be dealt with under other laws of the land. Innocent people like Sanjay Dutt should be dealt with under other laws of the land such as the Arms Act, etc. and not continue to suffer under TADA.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bithaur): Mr. Speaker Sir, the following items may be included in next week's agenda:—

- (a) Need to declare Delhi, Aligarh, Etah, Kanpur Road as a national highway.

- (b) Need to purchase potato on government support price so that the potato producers of Kanpur, Farukhabad district may get suitable remuneration of their product.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item no. 9A—
Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

..(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I have given a notice that Women's Reservation Bill be included in the next week's Business. ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, not now.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would respectfully submit only one thing..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Not now.

..(Interruptions)

12.15 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eighth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Sir, I beg to present the Eighth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is an observation from the Chair.

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the facilities being provided to the Ex. M.Ps by the Railways have since been abrogated by a judgement of the Allahabad High Court. This is an important issue and these facilities should be restored..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singh, there is one observation from the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, the court in its judgement have abrogated these facilities at a time when a provision has been made to raise the salaries of High Court's..(Interruptions) It is highly condemnable ..(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two aspects of the issue. One aspect has been raised by you and that you have to decide. So far as the court's judgement is concerned you please see to it that whether it was due to your ruling or something else. That is another aspect. I just had a talk with the Railway Minister regarding the judgement in respect of facilities being extended to ex-MPs. The Bill that I introduced regarding allowances etc. for MPs did not include providing the facility of first class AC for the spouse of the MP and since it could not be covered in the original Bill I have sent the proposal to Cabinet and it will be brought before the House as soon as Cabinet approves it. Railway Minister has just told me and I have agreed to that we will incorporate it in the amendment bill so that it become a law and we need not depend on anybody else..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. Hon. Members, the Minister has replied categorically.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

12.19 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that in view of the pending financial, legislative and other business, the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held on 17th December, 1998 had decided to dispense with the lunch hour and the Zero Hour from Monday 21st December, 1998 till the conclusion of the current session.

It was also decided that the House may sit late on 21st, 22nd and 23rd December, 1998 daily to dispose of all the listed business.

I hope the House agrees.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL (Jalandhar): Sir, I rise to express my sad and also heart-rending views regarding the continued attack by the United States of America on Iraq.

The hon. Prime Minister had made a statement here expressing the Government of India's concern about the situation. But unfortunately the reprehensible actions continue and now we see that the missile attack has been repeated and the newspapers say, the world over, that there is possibility of an aerial attack as well.

I think, I am voicing the feelings of this House and also perhaps the entire nation, when I join my friends in saying that here is a power which does not care to what the United Nations is saying. Sanctions against Iraq were imposed under the Resolution of the Security Council. Neither the United States nor Britain has any autonomous or independent authority to impose anything on Iraq, the way they have been trying to do.

As we are told yesterday, the unfortunate thing is that although the Security Council is sitting and the world opinion is being expressed, it is not listened to and the attacks continue. This New World Order that is now being spelt out like this causes concern to all of us which means basically that any nation which has the missiles and also the nuclear power can go out of the discipline of the United Nations also and can impose its will by force and by violence on any Third World nation.

As a country of the Third World and as an important Member of the NAM and as a nation which has always served the United Nations cause with a great deal of responsibility, I think this House will be well within its rights and also called upon to express its strong opinion on this.

I also notice and I think my hon. colleagues also would have noticed that apart from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, China, Russia, the European Union members like France have also expressed their difficulty and apprehension on this. Media universally, we notice, everywhere in the world, has come out to condemn this act.

I do feel that our sympathy goes to all those citizens of Iraq who are suffering. Some news has come. Some children are suffering, houses have been demolished, peaceful citizens have been killed and, therefore, I feel that this united voice must go from this country that we think that the actions of the United States of America are condemnable. We also feel that we should also send a word of sympathy to the citizens and people of Iraq who are suffering, through no fault of theirs.

Unfortunately after the Prime Minister's statement—this one and the previous one about the bilateral talks between America and India — our rules did not permit for asking for further questions or clarifications. And since the Minister was just now talking about the next week's business, I think it is important for us to earmark some time, before the House adjourns, to discuss the foreign policy.

I am not criticising. If it has been provided for, I will be very grateful. I accept it. I am thankful to the hon. Minister and I think particularly that when the debate comes the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Minister of External Affairs should come to the House and must, in a detailed fashion, tell us what actions and initiatives the Government of India has taken to contact the world powers on this new reprehensible act of the United States of America.

Thank you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Please understand it. Yesterday also the hon. Prime Minister had made a statement. On the 22nd or the 23rd we are going to discuss the foreign policy also.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY (Madurai): The Prime Minister has only deplored the United States' action. He should condemn it. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): He should condemn it. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad):
• Speaker Sir, USA can not be allowed to dictate in this manner.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no difference of opinion. Yesterday also, the entire House has agreed. There is no problem.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: You can associate with it.

...(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: The entire House is associating with it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, my Party is supporting the views expressed by hon. Shri I.K. Gujral. We are associating with him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, all of you are associating with Shri Gujral's statement.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (Tenali): While associating myself with what has been said by the hon. former Prime Minister, I would just like to add a few words and then speak on the other aspect.

Sir, our foreign policy, notwithstanding the different shades of political parties that we are, had been the replica of the national sentiment. All the parties, irrespective of the beliefs that they have, the principles that they pursue, had been unanimous on the issue of the foreign policy that we had been pursuing and which has been framed based on the traditions and conventions that we have been pursuing over the centuries.

Sir, it is a sorry state of affairs that the United States in the recent times has become the police man of the world. The unilateral attack has not only shocked the conscience of the universe but also even the Secretary-General of the Security Council has gone on record to say that it is highly disturbing and a matter of great concern.

Sir, a non-aligned country has subjected to be attacked by the United States and Great Britain on a ground that cannot be called as a ground of any relevance. It is unfortunate that the greatest of the powers today is trying to resolve the problem through the process of violence thereby trying to divert the attention of the world from their own problems, particularly, the problems that confront the President of the United States of America, and in that process trying to take vengeance on a Non-aligned country.

As the hon. Prime Minister has stated yesterday, all our support goes for the nation and we stand for peace. I am sure the United States and the Great Britain see the writing on the wall, and do not escalate it into an international strife. I am sure that the nation will stand by it. All our sympathies go for the people of Iraq who are suffering the untold miseries because of this unwarranted attack.

Having said this, I would like to advert the attention of the hon. House for what has been said a little earlier. Sir, I am not aware as to on what ground the Allahabad High Court has decided that the railway pass that was given to the former MPs stands nullified. The Railway Minister is here. I am sure his Ministry might have defended the case on proper merits. Though the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has assured us that he would include it in the Bill, how does he give this impression to the House that he will include it? I do not know if it has been struck down on the basis of discrimination violative of Article 14 of the Constitution. What I am worried is that that order will have to be considered in proper perspective.

It is not known whether there has been a proper defence on the part of the Government and whether all the issues have been properly put forth before the High Court.

Even the other day, I was saying with reference to Kerala also. The same thing seems to have happened. I have reports from Kerala that the Government has defended itself in a shabby manner. I am telling you this because one of the grounds that they have put in is that the names of all the beneficiaries of gas connections should be properly and adequately advertised. Who is going to advertise these names? We give gas connection

to whoever comes. Who is going to publish their names? On this matter at least, why does he not ask for the review of that order? He has just read out what the conditions are, but he did not tell us about what steps he has taken to alleviate our miseries. We have got to give connections to people. Some poor people come to us and ask for connections and we give them. Are we expected to adequately publish it in the newspapers? How are we going to obey this order? Why does he not take up this matter with the High Court and say that this matter deserves to be reviewed.

Equally, I would submit that I do not know on what grounds this order of the Allahabad High Court has been passed. That matter has not become clear. Therefore, he should plug those grounds by a proper and appropriate law so that this situation does not create a problem for us. This is what I am requesting of him.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards the point that has been raised by the hon. Member later on I would like to make it very clear that this House will not abide by the order of High Courts. This House will obey the order of Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House will follow your guidelines. We had convened a meeting on 8th. Mr. Speaker was likely to announce his decision without waiting the courts decision but in the meantime courts decision cameout.

What the hon. Member has said is that court interferes in all the things ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: Court can nullify the laws made by you. So, you should take full responsibility of whatever you are saying...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to refer to the guidelines which you have mentioned. All the remaining guidelines are the same as the Speaker had issued. There is nothing new except that this should be publicised.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER: You review it. Who will publish it?

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It has also been said that we did not plead the case properly there, but it is not so. We sent our additional Attorney General ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: There is no post called Additional Attorney-General. We do not know of it. What is this post he is talking about?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rail travel facilities provided to ex-MPs were by virtue of order of Railway Ministry. It was not given by any law of Parliament...(Interruptions)

Let me complete, so that no confusion remain in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rail travel facilities provided to ex-MPs were by virtue of Railway Ministry's order. No act or decision of Parliament was involved in it ... (Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) But provisions were made in the Budget for that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, that facility was complimentary one, which was given in the form of complimentary pass. High Court has given a verdict in that regard and it has just been mentioned in the House. I have not seen the copy of High Courts verdict personally. Until I read the verdict and discuss the issue with the ministry and know their opinion, it is not appropriate for me to say anything in this regard. Only after that I can connect upon that. I have explained my position. So far as enacting of a legislation is concerned Parliament is the sovereign body. It can enact legislation and there can be no impediment in it. As regards providing rail travel facilities to spouse of MPs for first class A.C., the Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister wants to move an amendment for the purpose in the Bill. When the amendment will be brought we will discuss it. I had earlier suggested Parliamentary Affairs Minister that many facilities such as pension and medical treatment are being provided to ex-MPs by law. In the very same manner you can provide them travel facilities by enacting law. I have urged him in this regard, but about the court's verdict, the grounds on which they have stopped it, I am not able to say anything. I will give my suitable comments to Parliamentary Affairs Minister only after going to the verdict.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have also mentioned the issue raised by former Prime Minister Shri Gujral ji. Yesterday, Hon. Prime Minister

expressed the feelings of Indian people on attack on Baghdad, by U.S.A. and he condemned U.S.A.'s action. The entire House appreciated for the feelings expressed in the statement of Prime Minister. Today in the morning, I discussed foreign affairs with Prime Minister. This House will discuss the statement made by Prime Minister on 22nd.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: This should be discussed immediately. Why have you fixed 22nd for discussion? Why are you taking it to the month of Ramzan?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: It is in the knowledge of the Government.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, it is the month of Ramzan and fasting. Before Ramzan starts, let us discuss this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: The Govt. of India is keeping its eye on the situation.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Kindly you start it right now.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee. Shri Banatwalla, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, the month of Ramzan and fasting is starting.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I can well understand the feeling of the hon'ble member but due to arrival of the Russian Prime Minister on 21st, our Prime Minister will be busy with him. That's why we have agreed for 22nd. He will be here on 22nd and answer it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: This should be started from today itself....(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, we have given notices, and our names stand at first and second places in the list.

MR. SPEAKER: I am calling everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA (Chandoli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Mugal Sarai Station falls under my constituency...(Interruptions) This is the same railway station where Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay martyred.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, please give me a minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Anand Ratna Maurya. How can you interfere in the middle?

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: It is our long pending demand to change the name of Mugal Sarai Railway Station after the name of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay. The hon'ble Minister is present here...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir I want only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Anand Ratna Maurya. I will call you after he completes his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: I request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to change the name of Mugal Sarai Railway Station after the name of Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyayji. This will be an appropriate homage to him. I would like the Minister to react on it or it will be better if he gives some assurance.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am not the right person to give any assurance on this subject. The Minister of Railways has no objection in changing name of any station. Had it been in the jurisdiction of

Railways we could have considered over it but changing the name of any station depends on the recommendations of the concerned State Government as well as the Home Minister. ...(Interruptions) If the Home Minister concedes to the recommendation of the State Government and the Government of India nod its approval then the Railway has no objection in accepting it...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: (Hazipur): Had it been under the jurisdiction of the Railways the name of Dadar would have been Chitbhumii...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I may be given one minute. Gujralji has already submitted it here and it is a very serious thing. The House has to condemn the U.S. attack on Iraq. We have not condemned it.

Sir, Shri Gujral has raised a very serious matter...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called the name of Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, there have been American attacks on Iraq...(Interruptions) We have to condemn it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The matter is over now.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, we cannot wait till the 5th...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Krishnadas is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palakkad): Sir, I would like to raise a very important matter regarding extra-departmental postal employees...(Interruptions) Yesterday the Minister for Communication made a statement before the House regarding their service matter and their amenities...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, the US attacks on Iraq has to be condemned by the House...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR (Dumdum): Sir, what is going on here? Please sit down...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Who are you to say so? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, we cannot wait till the 5th...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ahamed, you are such a senior Member, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Krishnadas says, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, yesterday, the hon. Minister for Communications made a statement before this House regarding the salaries and amenities of the Extra-Departmental employees of the Postal Department. But I am very sorry to say that it was a clear violation of the assurance given by the former Minister of Communications of this Government before this House.

Sir, even after 52 years of our Independence, more than three and a half lakh Extra-Departmental employees are working as bonded labourers in this country. It is a very shameful thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, 45 Members have given notice to speak in the 'Zero hour'. So, everybody will have two minutes each. Please understand that.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, when the employees of the Postal Department went on a strike and after the Minister had discussions with the representatives of the Postal Department he assured this House that this Government would implement the recommendations of the Justice Talwar Commission. But even after two to three months have elapsed after the assurance, the recommendations have not been implemented by the Government.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would implement the recommendations of the Justice Talwar Committee or not. I would like to urge upon the Government to immediately implement the recommendations of the Justice Talwar Commission and we would also like to have a response from the Government in the matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): We want a response from the Government...(Interruptions)

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavellikara): Sir, we support him...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right. Prof. A.K. Premajam, Shri P.C. Thomas and Prof. Kurien and others are supporting this cause.

Now, Shri Madan Prasad Jaiswal.

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL (Betiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the workers and officers of All India Rural Regional Banks associated with Indian Labour Federation are on dhama from the 15th...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it is a violation of the assurance given in this House ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Jaiswal is saying, would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: On the basis of the report of Standing Committee on Finance dated 23.12.98 the officers and employees of Regional Rural Banks are demanding to implement the Sixth wage agreement constituted under National Industrial Tribunal on the advise of Supreme Court...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palakkad): Sir, the Extra-Departmental employees should be regularised ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing, except what Shri Jaiswal is speaking, would go in record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, we want a response from the Government ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please understand that you cannot compel the Government to respond on every issue during the 'Zero Hour'. If the Government gives any reply, then I have no objection to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL: They are staging a dhama in favour of the setting up of the Indian National Rural Banks. Today thousands of employees hailing from Bihar, M.P. are sitting on dhama and their demands are justified. If their demands are not accepted then they will resort to one day's strike all over the country on 11 January, 1999. Many people like Justice Lodha, Dr. Muri Manohar Joshi, a member or minister of B.J.P. including me have courted arrest in support of their demands. ...(Interruptions)

The Finance Minister, during a convention held in Kota had justified their demands and assured to honour them on coming to power.

Since, Finance Minister is not present here I request the Government to accept the demands of those employees and officers of Regional Banks who are sitting on dharna.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, several Ministers are sitting here but not reacting. It means they are not at all serious about this issue....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHY (Reewa): My motion also relates to this.

MR. SPEAKER: You will also be summoned. Please sit down.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, it is only a question of violation of an assurance given by the Minister. Therefore, the Government should react to it. Khuranaji is sitting here. Let him say whether this is violation of assurance or not.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I am surprised....(Interruptions) You please sit down. I know all that and I am even aware of the assurance given. You have never bothered to fulfil their demands in the last 45 years. They have never fulfilled their demands but within eight months, after coming to power....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You asked the Minister to react but when he is on his legs you are not allowing him to speak. It means you are not interested in a reply. This attitude is not good.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, on the basis of talks held with the union, a group of minister considered this issue in details and I emphasise that this year we have increased allocation by Rs. 500 crores followed by an increased amount of Rs. 300 crores

from next year. This is going to benefit them. In spite of that if there remains any demand then we will hold discussion. For the first time in fifty years we have taken this decision and you are talking like that....(Interruptions)

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, we can discuss if there remains anything....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: SHRI R.S. Gavai. Nothing will go on record except what Shri Gavai says.

....(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.S. GAVAI (Amravati): Sir, at present the farmers are able to obtain only 50 per cent of their credit requirement from various banks. Similarly, the State-owned Seed Corporations are meeting only 10 per cent of the requirement of seed. Indian farmers are benefiting from extension services provided by the Government agencies. Indian agriculturists are heavily dependent on the monsoon. Because of this and also because of natural calamities, about 10 per cent of the total crop gets destroyed every year. All these adverse situations can be averted if the country has a well-functioning crop insurance scheme.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: We will invite everybody. There are 45 names with me. I will call all of them.

[English]

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU (Kakinada): Sir, I will speak in my mother tongue Telugu.

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak in English. To speak in Telugu, you have to give advance notice.

SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very important issue pending with the Government of India. There is one inter-State project for construction of an overbridge on the river Godavari between Yedurlanka and Yanam (Union Territory of Pondicherry). The foundation-stone for this project was laid by hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu, two years back but there is no progress in this Rs. 135 crore project.

Once this project is over, this overbridge will connect the two regions Yedurlankha and Yanam and develop

*Not recorded.

the infrastructure. The ONGC would also be greatly benefited in regard to transportation because of their projects in the Godavari basin. It would benefit the region within the radius of 60 kilometres. Kakinada Port would also get a lot of cargo traffic because of this road communication.

The ONGC and the Ministry of Surface Transport can have joint venture there. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to pay his personal attention to this matter and to make adequate budgetary provisions for completion of this project expeditiously.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: (Chandni Chowk): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Congress is in high spirits after winning election in three States. The President of the Congress Party is also a lady. But this doesn't mean that they will become so emboldened by their victory that it will lead them to increase atrocities on women. Recently three congressmen burnt alive a woman corporator in Mumbai. We had never dreamt that they will resort to such heinous acts...*(Interruptions)* ! have a number of newspaper cuttings with me..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

"Three congressmen held for attempt to burn a woman corporator"..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): None of them belongs to Congress..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: All the three are congressmen. *Indian Express, Jansatta, Times of India* have published about them. I was talking about your high spirits. I feel that when Naina Sahni case took place in Delhi Sushil Sharma was also not a congressman..*(Interruptions)* It seems that they are not congressmen who are committing atrocities on women in Orissa. You can also say that a girl student who was crushed under jeep by the wards of a few influential local congressmen fifteen days ago in Ambikapur of Madhya Pradesh were also not a congressmen. On the one hand they raise slogans against the atrocities on women and on the other they themselves are involved in such crimes. I wish that the Govt. should conduct an inquiry into it..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Mumbai South): If they belong to congress in Mumbai ask your minister, he is yours.

SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Definitely the Home Minister belong to us but all the criminals are yours. All the three accused are congressmen. The congress should keep control over its organization and at least do not make atrocities on women. This is what I want to say.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Vijay Goel says.

..*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE (Surendranagar): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, first of all we get a little time and next they further disturb in by interrupting in between..*(Interruptions)* I am not going to speak unless silence prevails in the House..*(Interruptions)* The way the senior members behave is perturbing. They should try to listen us..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, he is making false allegations. Please get them removed from the records..*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: There was an attempt to murder woman corporator Meena More in Navi Mumbai. I condemn this in this House. As per the reports published in newspapers the three criminals involved in this crime were apprehended and they belong to Congress. There's no fault of this woman corporator. The tap was being fixed on the gutter in that sium area..*(Interruptions)* and she was creating awareness against this illegal fixing of tap. The way..*(Interruptions)* kindly listen..*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: The atrocities committed on women is not a political issue. Don't politicise it..*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: There was an attempt to murder her..*(Interruptions)* Kerosene oil poured on her body and then she was dragged inside the lane..*(Interruptions)* She has got 80 percent burn injuries ..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

..*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: I have brought a newspaper with me..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, take your seat. You have made your mention.

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD*(Salempur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards an important subject. Last September..(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVANA KARDAM DAVE: The criminal has been apprehended..(Interruptions). The subject of women pertains to Union Government. I also request the Government to throw a light on this incident ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Hari Kewal Prasad is saying.

..(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the floods that came during last September and carried on for months together caused more in the Poorvanchal where a large number of houses were submerged in the fury of the floods when hon'ble Prime Minister visited Gorakhpur he gave an assurance to the flood affected persons that the Government of India will talk to Government of Nepal regarding Parmeshwar dam share. When Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister, talks were held for first time between Government of India and Government of Nepal regarding same Poorvanchal from the fury of the floods augmentation of former generation and implementation of schemes. I hold talks with Government of Nepal and implement this scheme as has already been assumed by him. So that floods affected people may get the relief and permanent schemes may be formulated. I would urge upon the Government to hold talks with the Government of Nepal and these schemes may be completed.

MR. SPEAKER: We are calling everybody.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue.

According to the Constitution of India, the term of the Lok Sabha is five years, but the Prime Minister has the power to recommend the dissolution of Lok Sabha before its term is over. Perhaps the makers of the Constitution might not have the idea of hung Parliament. But during the last decade it is for the third time that a hung Parliament has come in existence.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is it necessary to mention this in the House?

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT: Yes, there was hung Parliament in 1989 which was for 11 months only. Thereafter hung Parliament was constituted in 1996 which was not able to complete a year of its term. The Government has to incur expenditure of 1000 crores of rupees in conducting elections for one time. The candidates and their supporters and political parties spent almost 10,000 crore in this way. There is wastage of money and time and development is hampered. There is an increase in illiteracy, poverty, hunger and unemployment. This is the reason that India is the most backward, poor, sick and helpless country in the World. Thus, the House should consider this seriously. If elections are held every year then we will not be able to bring the country out of economic crisis. I, therefore, request to Government to bring a legislation in the budget session of Parliament to ensure that the full term of i.e. five years Lok Sabha and State Assemblies is completed. The Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies should not be dissolved before five years, this is my request and I hope that leaders of all the Parties will agree to this suggestion.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to speak on the same point?

* Not recorded.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHR! RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever has been said by hon'ble Member Shri Ganga Charan Rajput is very significant and there is need for amendment in the Constitution for this. I have been elected as Member of Parliament for the sixth term. Its not that I want to remain member of Parliament for five years, but it is the opinion of both the sides and it is in the interest of the country, because the country is unable to bear elections time and again as elections entail expenditure of crores of rupees have been once the elections are announced by the election commission to be held at a particular date, say in June, then the development work is hampered from that particular date and code of conduct comes into force. That let the governments keep on changing but the term of the legislation should be completed. This system is prevalent in many countries while coalition governments are working. The governments keep on changing but the life of the Parliaments remains upto five years. There can be many ways for this. One way can be that when no-confidence motion is introduced against any Prime Minister, at the same time confidence motion may also be brought in favour of the person. Whom the Members want to install as next Prime Minister. If this type of decision can be taken in the House and the the House can complete its five year term. It is different that till the alternative Prime Minister is appointed the outgoing Prime Minister can be allowed to work. This is one way, but other methods can also be devrsed. I request the Government to take the opinion of constitutional experts and some solution should be found out in national interest. The House is not divided on this. The term of the House should continue upto five years, otherwise we'll be facing next elections at an early date and even then it is luncetan, whether one single party will be in a position to form the Government. The burden of repeated election on the country cannot be imposed, this is only my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kalpnath Rai, I have already called Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): He has called me to speak. ..(Interruptions)

Since yesterday, thousands of workers from the Hindustan Steelworks Construction Limited and the

Tannery and Footwear Corporation of Kanpur are holding a dhama. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not speaking on the same issue?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: He is speaking on another subject.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is a very important matter..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I thought that you were speaking on the same subject. I will call you later on. I now call Shri Kalpnath Rai.

..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, fortunately the former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar is present in the House. This is an important matter. The election to the Lok Sabha were held in 1996 and again after one and a half years elections were held again and 270 MPs lost the elections. After one and a half year, elections were held in 1998 and 288 MPs lost. One gets the ticket for elections of MP, after a long and arduous task and sacrifices and then he becomes our MP. The Lok Sabha is dissolved after one and a half year and the other House i.e. Rajya Sabha, also enjoys all facilities which is enjoyed by Lok Sabha. In this House people get elected for six years, who can even become the Prime Minister, here in Lok Sabha if a person is elected and ceases to be an MP after one and a half years, then what will be his future. As per the prevailing situation in India, as far as Lok Sabha is concerned, it appears that elections will be formed again and again. In this situation let anybody be the Prime Minister but the term of Lok Sabha should be completed five years. I urge upon you to bring a bill to amend the constitution for this purpose. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you should take the lead and on your initiative a provision regarding completion of term of 5 years should be made.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that India is the biggest democracy of the World and conductory election in a period is less than 5 years amounts to imposing burden on people therefore many hon'ble Member have expressed

their views in this regard. Sir, aftergoing through the constitutional provisions detail and then we have today brought it will be introduced with your urgent. Just one 'word' in the constitution, it will terms the life of Lok Sabha for a full of five years. There is a provision that the President can 'dissolve' Lok Sabha and if the dissolve is replaced by suspended and if the House agrees then the life span of the House will not be less than five years. You have allowed to introduce it is a private member Bill, to-day itself..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West): I have given it. ..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So, if the Government accepts it and there is consensus on it then it will be a great welfare of the country. We have discussed all the points therein. This is a very good point, that has been raised and it is in public interest, so this should be done..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, kindly allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you later. I have called you earlier because I thought you were going to speak on the same point. I will call you later.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Ask Congress party also to give its opinion. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I would like to say something because they are asking as to what the Congress party has to say on this. I would say that it is for the Government to consider it and bring forward a Bill. The Government can take a view on this....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let Kurien Ji speak first.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: It is a basic constitutional question. It is for the Government to take a view. The Prime Minister can call a meeting of all the leaders and discuss the matter. We will express our views in the appropriate forum. There is no need for us to say anything here..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Sir, Taj Mahal is not only the most important heritage of India but of the world. More than fifty percent of the total tourists coming to India go to Agra to see the Taj Mahal. But since 1985 night visit of Taj Mahal has been stopped as a result the tourists could not see the Taj Mahal at the night and it has been stopped without any reason. For the security of Taj, Saxena Committee was constituted that there may not be any danger to the security of Taj Mahal. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has adopted the recommendations of Saxena Committee and assured to implement these even then the Ministry of Home Affairs is not issuing the no objection certificate. Archaeological Department of the Ministry of Human Resource Development is avoiding the matter, this is adversely affecting the tourism sector. On the one hand the Minister of Tourism says that we will give tourism the status of industry and export business and on the other hand due to closure of Taj Mahal at night has not only affected the tourism of Agra but of the whole country.

So, efforts should be made to open the Taj for night visit without any delay. The Taj was already opened at night during Yanni's show. I would like to say one more thing that the then Governor Shri Romesh Bhandari had declared that development works would be taken up in the slum areas situated behind the Taj Mahal. The condition of roads connecting National Highway is deplorable. The people living in the slums settled on the road side use to go for toilets there. It affects the atmosphere. It also affects the tourists who visit the country to see the Taj and it tarnish the image of India in the world. I would request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and the Minister of Tourism that he should pay attention in this regard as the image of India is being tarnished and assure that measures would be taken in this regard. Secondly, Department of Environment has not given the money of Mission Management Board till now and this money should be provided from the Ministry of Environment.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rawat ji has talked about

the Taj Mahal..(Interruptions) I am also the Minister of Tourism. We have selected 50 cities of the country having tourist spot for beautification and improvement. Rupees one crore has been provided to each city for this. So far as Agra is concerned I admit that when tourists visit Agra, they look at the dirty places and it gives wrong impression about them. Therefore, we have decided to provide Rs. one crore for the repair of approach roads and beautification of Agra..(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard Kurien Sahib has said that Govt. should bring a bill in the House that the Parliament should have a term of five years. He has said that they will also consider on it. We are also of the opinion that there should be five years term.

[English]

Let the Government come out. What is the reaction of the Government?

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a suggestion, Congress also says, all say then we will consider on it. I will convey your message to the Prime Minister...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will give opportunity to all the hon. Members.

..(Interruptions)

DR. CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI (Peddapalli): Sir, I would like to bring an important matter to the notice of this august House and the hon. Minister of Coal. ..(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Dr. Suguna Kumari's speech

..(Interruptions)*

DR. CHELLAMELLA SUGUNA KUMARI: Sir, nearly one lakh twenty thousand coal miners are working in Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. which is in my constituency, Peddapalli. The Regional Coal Miners Provident Fund Office is located in Hyderabad which is about 250 kms. away from the main area of

Godavarikhani, Ramagundam and Mandawary. So, if the CMPF Office is shifted to Godavarikhani, Ramagundam and Mandawary area, it would be of great help to the miners.

Hence I request the hon. Minister of Coal to take necessary action to shift the Office from Hyderabad to this area.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, thousands of workers of Hindustan Steel Construction Corporation Ltd., and Tannery and Footwear Corporation, Kanpur are holding *dharna* in Delhi since yesterday.

13.15 hrs.

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

The workers have not been paid their wages for the last six months. There have been starvation and deaths. These are the two Central Public Sector Undertakings. In the case of Tannery and Footwear Corporation, the Government has taken a decision to close it down though there is every possibility of its revival. Without trying to revive it, the Government has taken a decision to close it down.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to revive the Hindustan Steel Construction Company which was set up for the construction of steel plants. The workers are not getting their salaries for the last four to five months. The Government should pay wages to the workers and also take step to revive these two public sector companies.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): I may be allowed to express my views for one minute..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat and maintain order.

..(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Speaker had called me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have heard it. Please maintain order.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMED: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Mr. Speaker had called me and therefore I am standing up to speak with your permission..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please maintain order and take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, a news is published in today's Hindustan Times..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (Inner Manipur): Sir, I may be allowed to raise an important issue regarding the selection of..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether you have given a notice? , Please sit down if you have not given a notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West): He may be given time to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How much time can be given without prior notice? Time could not be given in this way..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: It is not proper. Members representing big States like Bihar and U.P. are allowed to speak more than once. How will the small States..(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maintain order. Time could not be given in this way. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH (Satna): Please call them as per serial number..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Everybody will get time turn by turn.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the first thing I want to mention here is that on the issues raised by us the Government must give written reply if it is not possible to give oral reply on the floor.

My another request is that former Prime Minister Devegowdaji had made an announcement in Jammu that an Agnculture University will be established in Jammu region. Rs. 10 crore has also been allocated in Central budget for the purpose. There was an Agriculture University in Sopore in Kashmir Valley but it is now closed due to insurgency. Their staff are sitting idle at Jammu. Jammu is a region which produces three crops, so an agriculture university should be set up immediately in Jammu. Therefore, it is essential to set up an agriculture university at R.S. Pura so that students may acquire knowledge about agriculture and all the three crops may be developed further..(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman Sir, I may also be allowed to speak. ..(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Mr. Chairman Sir, my name is listed on number three, but you are yet to call my name.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, my name was called but I couldn't speak..(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. I have heard your name and heard what you want to say.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I am yet to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your question has already been raised, so you please sit down.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: It is violation of our rights. I may be allowed to speak. ..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU (Madras South): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers to the sad plight of two public sector undertakings which are situated in Tamil Nadu..(Interruptions). Sir, one of them is the Madras Fertilizers Limited which is situated in North Chennai wherefrom Thiru Kuppusami has been elected as Member of Parliament. The other one is Indian Drugs and

Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) which is situated in my constituency of South Chennai. Both the units are suffering for want of working capital.

The Madras Fertilizers Limited had gone for modernisation. During the process of modernisation, it lost its production for six months. Now, for want of Rs. 42 crore, the industry is struggling and could not go in for full capacity. At the same time, the IDPL which is situated in my constituency has been referred to BIFR. The BIFR has directed the Government to infuse more funds as working capital. *..(Interruptions)*. The directions of the BIFR has been upheld by the workers and they agreed for reduction. *..(Interruptions)* The number of workers has been reduced from 1,200 to 322. *..(Interruptions)* The Government is not ready to release more funds. I demand that the Government should release more funds to both these units. *..(Interruptions)* We met the hon. Minister, Barnalaji on 16th and apprised the matter. He agreed to pay a visit to both the units. I request him to come and pay a visit and infuse working capital for the industry.

13.23 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS

Seventh Report

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to present seventh Report of the Standing Committee on Communications regarding the working of All India Radio network under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

[English]

SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR: Sir, it has been reported in the press that 64 collieries in the State of West Bengal are on the verge of closure. But these collieries have become uneconomical only because of the high rate of cess which is being taken by the West Bengal Government at the rate of 47 per cent. So, I am requesting you just to convey the West Bengal Government to make it zero per cent so that those 64 collieries may survive and 72,000 workers may get justice.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Chairman Sir, Supreme Court had given decision in favour of same pay for same work for Rural banks under national

industrial award, and after adopting the pay scales of commercial banks, pay scales of commercial banks become payable in Rural banks. Decisions of Allahabad, Kerala, Kamataka court and Labour court at Nagpur have also given judgment in regard to Rural Banks. I demand from Government of India that the same pay scales should be given in Rural banks as is being given in commercial banks.

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Gaya): Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to raise an important issue in the House. All traders have gone on indefinite strike opposing the imposition of 6 percent sales tax on potato and onion in Bihar and consumers are facing hardships. Therefore, I demand from Government of India through you that potato and onion should be exempted from the sales tax. Potato and onion are exempted from sales tax in other states but in Bihar six percent sales tax has been levied on these items.

Mr. Chairman Sir, Potato and Onion should be included in essential commodities Act because both the items are fast perishable and farmers face a lot of hardships. Cost of production should be considered while fixing the prices for Potato and Onion. The two crops should be covered by crop-insurance scheme and arrangement be made for special loans for farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Alright. You have completed. Please sit down.

SHRI RAMA NAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, Old age pension is being disbursed in the country on the basis of 1991 census while in the last 7-8 years the number of old persons has increased in all the states. In Madhya Pradesh 48,000 people are getting old age pension while 55,000 people are eligible for old age pension according to the reports of Zila Panchayats. Number of old persons has increased in all States. In tribal dominated state like Madhya Pradesh hardships of old tribal people have aggravated because pension are not being disbursed proportionately to the number of old persons.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has made request to Government of India by writing several demi official letters for raising old age pension on the basis of increased number of old persons, but Government of India has not raised the pension amount in tune with the rising number of old persons. This is the situation prevailing in all the States. Hence I urge to Government of India to extend assistance to State Governments to make payment of old age pension to the increased number of old persons

and make arrangement to pay pension to 8,50,850 old persons of Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

*SHRI K.P. MOHAN: Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the problem faced by the people of my constituency especially those living in Aroor Taluk who are not able to get Doordarshan transmission signals properly. There are about 4 lakhs of people over there and the reception quality is very poor in all the ten thousand TV sets there due to the distant location of the DD transmitters. LPTs of Yercaud, Dharmapuri and the HPT of Kodaikanal do not enable the local viewers to get the TV signals clearly. It is a region surrounded by hills and hence an LPT may be set up atop the Sitheri hill I urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to set up an LPT Relay Station at Sitheri in my constituency.

[English]

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. It is a matter of great pride and joy for our country that Shri Dingko Singh from Manipur has won a Gold Medal yesterday at the Bangkok Asiad by beating the world number 3 in the semi-finals and the world number 2 in the finals. However, what is of concern is that Shri Dingko Singh was not amongst those selected to go to the Asian Games at Bangkok and was chosen and approved to go to the Asian Games at the last minute. Such kind of unfair selection not only gives the wrong impression to sports persons particularly from small States of the North East as they feel that they are not treated fairly in the selection process. For example, in 1987, a woman cyclist from Manipur called Anita was not selected controversially and a Sepak Kakraw Indian team last year consisting of mainly Manipuri boys were not sent due to reasons not yet clear to the public of Manipur. Therefore, a CBI inquiry into Shri Dingko Singh's last minute selection to participate in the Asian Games would be appropriate so that such promising sports persons from the North East in future do not feel that they have been unfairly treated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Moreover, as an incentive, Manipur Government has declared Rs. 1 lakh and I have also declared Rs. 15,000 from my pocket for

Shri Dingko Singh. Therefore, I request the Government of India through you, to declare adequate cash incentive, over and above the normal Government reward which is given to all the Medal Winners specially Gold Medal Winners.

[Translation]

*SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I would like to recall the incident of causing huge wastage of onion on 15.11.98 at Mumbai Port. In order to overcome the onion shortfall and to challenge the price rise the Government imported a huge consignment of onion from Iran. But the onion that reached Mumbai Port was not cleared in time and got perished. On 21.11.98 the perished onion was thrown away. Thus the irresponsible handling of a perishable commodity which ought to have been cleared from the port within 24 hours caused a heavy loss to the Government. A considerable amount of tax payers' money has gone waste. This disabled the Government to control the onion price thereby affecting countless poor people of the country. This had political fall-out. At least two of the ruling parties had to pay a heavy price losing their Government in the recently concluded elections to certain State Legislative Assemblies. Normally perishable commodities ought to have been cleared within 24 hours if not they ought to have been auctioned and money should have been paid to the exchequer. Hence I urge up the Government to take suitable punitive measures fixing responsibility on the officials who failed to act in time.

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM (Palamu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from Palamu district of Bihar. In my parliamentary constituency, a cement factory at Chapra is lying closed for the last seven years. The workers of this factory are starving. The people living there are compelled to migrate to other places. We have also raised this issue many times before the Bihar Government and made efforts so that the factory is revived but till now the Bihar Government has not paid any attention in this regard. We demand from the Central Government that without any further delay, an effort should be made to reopen this factory so that lakhs of people could be saved and their families are able to survive.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to the mismanagement in the Cement Corporation of India and indulgence of the officers holding higher posts in corrupt practices, many cement units are being closed down. Recently, six units of Cement Corporation of India have been closed down and many

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

more units are on the verge of closure. The reasons behind running of Cement Corporation of India in continuous loss are irregularity and partiality in giving contracts of coal, theft of copper wires in units located at Naye Gaon in Madhya Pradesh and irregularity in the contract of transportation of stone and raw material, etc. Thousand of workers have become unemployed. I would like to request the Ministry of Industry to look into the working of the Cement Corporation and should try to improve it so that above mentioned units could be prevented from closure and mismanagement could end.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: (Jalgaon): I too support this...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the issue of C.C.I....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West): Sir, "Zero Hour" is going on but no Cabinet Minister is present in the House. At least, during the time of "Zero Hour", there should be Cabinet Minister present in the House. Only a Minister of State is present now.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two Ministers are present.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a question to ask.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You too support the issue. All right, now you may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to speak something else...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not get any answer to the questions raised by us during the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions) Confusion prevails among us in the absence of appropriate reply...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards my parliamentary constituency, Ferozabad...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you interrupting?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the issue of telephone connections, we...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency, Ferozabad. Agra Chambal Dal Project was started in 1987 after the survey and with the approval of the Government of India. At that time the cost of this project was Rs. 50 crore. Now 1998 is about to end. Today the cost of this project has risen over Rs. 100 crore. I would like to tell the Government of India that NABARD Bank has sanctioned Rs. 22 crore 60 lakh and this amount too has been spent. Now, we are not getting any money to complete this project. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India to make immediate arrangements for funds so that this Project could be completed. Crores of Bighas of land are unirrigated in that area. Farmers are facing scarcity of water. Therefore, from the irrigation point of view this project is very important for the farmers. ...(Interruptions)

I would like to request the Government of India to make immediate arrangements for funds so that this project could be completed...(Interruptions) You are not letting me to complete my submission...(Interruptions) I have yet to complete my points and you have called another Member. Let me first complete my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What you want to say is relating to factory. That is alright. Please sit down. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is not factory. You are not getting to my point. That relates to the Chambal Dal Project. Workers working there are dying of hunger. The Govt. of India should consider this matter seriously and should make arrangement of funds soon. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY (Khagaria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since you too belong to Bihar, you are

well aware that elections for Panchayat have not been held in Bihar for 20 years. The Govt. always makes excuses to avoid Panchayat elections. Sometimes the Govt. say that the elections are withheld by the orders of the High Court or the Supreme Court. Sometimes elections are avoided in the name of reservation issue. My simple question is why Panchayat elections are not being held when there is no stay given either by the High Court or the Supreme Court. This is unfortunate for Bihar. Moreover, the fund flowing to the State for J.R.Y. is looted by the officials. Mukhia, karamchari and B.D.O. are involved in misappropriation of funds. So, through you I would like to demand the Govt. that Panchayat elections should be held there in any case.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Madhya Pradesh which is a very big State, there the Madhya Pradesh Dugdha Sangh is in acute economic recession. The Madhya Pradesh Dugdha Sangh has to pay arrears in lakhs to farmers. Even that amount is not received to the milk producers. There is a serious dispute between the Chief Minister and the Minister of concerned department. It does also involve a scam of crores of rupees and due to which milk producers of the whole State are affected. I request the Govt. of India to intervene in this matter.

SHRI BASWARAJ PATIL SEDAM (Gulbarga): The National Council of Globe Friends—a registered organisation of Delhi has fleeced 28 lakh 40 thousand rupees from 130 students of one of the schools of Shri Sharan Vasekhar Residential Composite University of Gulbarga district, Karnataka in the name of conducting world tourism and only 45 students were taken for world tourism whereas rest 85 students were left out. In this connection, I would like to demand that those students should be given back their money and immediate action should be taken against that organisation of Delhi for cheating the students.

SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA (Sitapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh there is the biggest plywood factory named M/s. Sitapur (Products). The factory owners have closed the factory since 16th July owing to which workers and all employees of the factory are on the verge of starvation. Money which was deducted for depositing the same in the Provident Fund of the employees was actually not deposited in the Provident Fund and the employees are not getting their Provident Fund and those who have retired are not getting their pension. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Labour to kindly intervene in the matter and ensure that the factory reopens and employees get their money.

VAIDYA VISHNU DATT (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a large part of Jammu and Kashmir is touching Pakistan border. Rajouri and other border areas are much hilly. Population there is scattered and terrorists are there in good number...(*Interruptions*) Due to no roads and lack of communication network the news of accident, if any, reaches to the State Capital or the Police Station only on the second-third day. I would therefore like to request the Govt. to provide telephone and other means of communications there and that it should also construct roads immediately so that people of the area may get relief in those difficult areas and they may also be protected from onslaught of terrorism maximum number of telephone connection should be provided in the entire area and telephone exchanges should also be set up.

SHRI JUAL ORAM (Sundargarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that there is sufficient reserve of iron ore and manganese ore in Orissa and Bihar. There is one place named Nagla on the Bihar, Orissa border where the divisional office of M.M.T.C. is located. Through that office lakhs of tons of iron ore and manganese ore are procured and exported through Paradeep Port. Meanwhile there is a proposal to make that unit smaller. I would like to request that the said department should be accorded the status of divisional office and the old status be restored.

[*English*]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, Dr. Amartya Sen, the Nobel Laureate, is in India. He is on a tour to Dhaka in Bangladesh. The Government of India has planned to give him an all-out reception. Dr. Amartya Sen has expressed his desire to exchange his ideas with the present Finance Minister and also with the Government of India on economic policies. But the Government of India is still keeping mum.

So, I would urge upon the Central Government to take all the initiatives and to have a broad-based discussion with the great son of our country Dr. Amartya Sen as early as possible.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: I want to bring to the notice of this august House the following. The Governing Body and the General Body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, which comes under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, has taken certain decisions like creation of regular post of Member-Secretary for effective functioning of the Foundation, purchase of staff car to Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, creation of more than two dozen regular posts for implementation of various activities undertaken by the Foundation. Construction of

Dr. Ambedkar Memorial Community Halls, translation and publication of biographical series of Baba Saheb Ambedkar from Marathi into English, publication of TV film concerning the life and mission of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, delegation of adequate powers to the Director, Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, and Dr. Ambedkar Research Cell....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD (Madhubani): The R.S.S. people have published an article in the Panchjanya against him. The R.S.S. people are opposing him...(Interruptions) They are opposing Shri Amartya Sen, how can they honour him...(Interruptions) You have opposed him by publishing an article wrongfully in the Panchjanya. You should read the copy of the Panchjanya after taking it from your office. You should at least try to know about it...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: The Government of India has granted to Delhi Government a sum of Rs. 7.12 crore to acquire 26, Alipur road bungalow for the construction of national memorial of Dr. Ambedkar. But till now, nothing has been done in this regard.

Regarding construction of Dr. Ambedkar National Public Library at 20 Janpath, New Delhi, five bungalows have been allotted to Ambedkar Foundation but the possession of the same has not been handed over to the Foundation. A sum of Rs. 10 crore has been sanctioned and a sum of Rs. 90 crore has been allotted for this project in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is treating Ambedkar Foundation like an untouchable. I request that the Ministry must look after the interests of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation to spread the sacred thoughts of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI (Raigarh): This is a serious matter concerning the institute of Baba Saheb. Through you I would like to request that the Govt. should pay serious attention to this matter and that this should not be overlooked...(Interruptions)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Baba Saheb Ambedkar is being overlooked. The Govt. should ask the *Social Justice Ministry* not to treat the Ambedkar Foundation as untouchable.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After English you have started speaking in Hindi. Your turn is over

...(Interruptions)

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, today in the House, hon'ble Member Shri Vijay Goel has levelled charges against the Congress Party workers for indulging in wrong practices in different cities and States. He has given references of many newspapers in that regard.

Today's *Hindustan Times* has carried two news items:

[English]

"BJP leaders openly side with rapist."

[Translation]

This is the first item and the other is:

[English]

"BJP MLC, henchmen take to guns."

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not read newspaper, they will read it later on.

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD: The first news item pertains to Gujarat and the latter concerns a case of Lucknow...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD: There is BJP Government in both the States. Members and office bearers belonging to the BJP who are present in the House...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not the time to read newspaper.

DR. SHAKEEL AHAMAD: It has been written in their favour which is wrong. They level. Charges against others. This is today's newspaper...(Interruptions) He was giving the statement...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: They burnt the girl in Tandoor after raping her. How many court cases are pending against him....(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your statement will not be recorded in the proceedings

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1988 N.T.C. acquired Messers Swadeshi Polytex Ltd., Naya Kavinagar, distt. Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. Till 1996-97 the mill was earning a good Profit but because of the mismanagement of its present and previous officers it is incurring loss of about Rs. 8 crores since 1997-98. Now it has been declared sick and closed down because of mismanagement and anti-labourer policies of its management. Consequently, the future of 600 workers employed in the plant and their families has become bleak. These employees are ready to produce more than its annual capacity of 1200 MT. Besides, NTC and its subsidiaries owe dues amounting to Rs. 7.8 crores to the company. The factory has been closed down since September, 1998 due to which 600 workers are on the verge of starvation. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Textiles to revive the Swadeshi Polytex Ltd. and a CBI probe should be ordered to check the corruption prevailing therein. The Management of the Mill should be handed over to efficient and honest managers.

DR. BIZAY SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur): This matter relates to Swadeshi Cotton Mill of Naini.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please give it in writing to Shri Khurana.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet): Mr. Chairman, Sir, housing programme has become a very important programme in the country now and the Government of India is giving money for this programme. This programme is operated in various names like Indira Awas Yojana, general housing programme etc. Funds are flowing from Delhi to the States and the State Governments are the operating agencies of this programme. In many States, MLAs are considered as the persons who can select the beneficiaries and MPs cannot do that. No value is attached for the recommendation of the MPs. Even in genuine cases, the recommendations of MPs are completely neglected.

Sir, in the last Lok Sabha, 350 Members of Parliament, including the present Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had represented to the Government of India to consider the requests of MPs also. But that was not considered in those days. Now, I appeal to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Madan Lal Khurana, to consider the requests of MPs also in this regard. This

is not my personal request. This is the request of almost all the MPs in the 12th Lok Sabha. I would request him to kindly consider this matter and see that MPs also have some say in the selection of beneficiaries for the housing programme.

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a railway underbridge was constructed at Haveni, which is a district headquarter, while converting the railway line from metre gauge to broad gauge. But the underbridge is not constructed as per the design because the contractor has done some mischief. It is not possible for the people to walk through that underbridge. This is in the State Highway and so, even vehicles are not going in the normal way. There is a dangerous portion in that underbridge and people cannot walk through that bridge. Even for going to the APMC Yard which is on the opposite side, people have to take permission from the railway authorities to go through the railway station. Therefore, I urge the Minister of Railways to take immediate action to either repair the defective underbridge or construct a new underbridge there.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Legislative business may be taken up if the House agrees to do so.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): When would I be given a chance to speak? I have given a notice regarding breach of privilege.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can show the related clause given in the book written by Kaul and Shakhder to the hon'ble Speaker.

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA: It has been written in the book that the arrest of any Member of Parliament amounts to breach of privilege. I have given a notice of it. Decision on this issue should be taken at the earliest. Designated court of CBI has issued an order to take the M.P. Lalu Prasad Yadavji in judicial custody. It is a matter of breach of privilege. This should be referred to the Committee on Breach of Privilege at the earliest.

13.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunch at Thirty nine
minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we start the proceedings of the House and Legislative business will be taken up.

THE LEADERS AND CHIEF WHIPS OF
RECOGNISED PARTIES AND GROUPS IN
PARLIAMENT (FACILITIES) BILL, 1998

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, I moved the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Bill, 1998. In this Bill a provision has been made for providing additional Secretarial and telephone facilities to the Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in both the House of Parliament. These facilities will be in addition to the facilities being already provided to them as an M.P. under the concerned law.

These additional facilities proposed to be given to the Leaders and Chief Whips of political parties will be notified later on under the new laws. These facilities will be as under:— One Stenographer Grade-III of the level of Private Secretary.

Facility of 10,000 free local telephone calls annually at office and residence. These telephone calls will be in addition to the free telephone calls given to them as an M.P. The above mentioned facilities will be available to the Leaders and Chief Whips of political parties till they continue in their office.

The House may agree that smooth functioning of the Parliamentary system depends largely upon the ability of Party machinery. The leaders and the Chief Whips of all political parties play an important role in their party's performance during the proceedings of both the Houses. Keeping in view of this the 11th All India Whips Conference held in Bangalore had recommended that the Chief Whip of recognised opposition parties in Parliament and State Legislatures be provided such facilities so that they can shoulder their parliamentary responsibilities effectively.

In fact, such recommendations were made by the previous All India Chief Whips Conferences but no action has been taken on this. Hon'ble Sir I do remember that I had an opportunity to participate in whips conference in 1967 when I was Chief Whip of Delhi Municipal Council. In that Conference it was demanded to give such facilities to the Chief Whips. This demand was reiterated in the

subsequent conferences. For me it is a matter of personal satisfaction that these recommendations which remained pending for more than 31 years, are being implemented through this Bill. I am delighted to bring this Bill before the House in the capacity of Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

I do hope that the State Governments will follow the suit and will also introduce such Bill in the State Legislatures so it may also facilitate the leaders and Chief Whips that of political parties in carrying out their duties.

Hon'ble Sir, our efforts in this direction may not be sufficient but it's right step in the right direction. Hon'ble Sir, this is a short, simple and a non-controversial Bill. I do believe that it will have support from every section of the Members of this House. With these words I introduce this Bill before the House and hope that it will be passed unanimously.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for Facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament, be taken into consideration."

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly pass it...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly allow me to speak a few words. This is a good Bill and we will welcome it and God willing it will be passed unanimously. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards one thing. There are a number of small parties but they also play a vital role in this parliamentary system. But these smaller parties do not come within the scope of this Bill but the Government should provide such facilities to them also so that they may perform in a better way. In fact these facilities should be extended to all the M.Ps so that they may carry out their duties in a better manner. But it will be in the fitness of things if the requirement of those smaller parties, who do not come under the scope of this Bill, be taken care of. It may not be proper to talk of facilities in Parliamentary matters but as you are aware that there's a Parliamentary Notice Office here. But it is very small and the Parliament has its own limitations and it is difficult to carry out works sitting here. Then we look for a room and in the process we sometimes occupy part of the

library and sometime another one. The facilities I am talking about is related to smaller parties so there must be some arrangements on your behalf so that these parties can work at ease. It is not possible to carry out works in such a small Notice Office with so many papers and sometime indulge in talking with other persons also. Therefore, you have to pay attention towards these problems. I congratulate you for extending those facilities but I also expect from you to provide rooms to the smaller parties as well as to our M.Ps. so that they may carry out their work without any difficulty.

[English]

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Trichur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the facilities proposed in the Bill certainly help and make easier the work of the Whips. As I understand it, in this House only three parties are going to get these facilities, the BJP, the Congress Party and the CPI (M).

I plead that at least the national parties recognised by the Election Commission that are here may also be provided such minimum facilities. I must point out that already the BJP, the Congress Party and our brother party the CPI(M) have got some facilities in this Parliament House. Some of their Members are Chairman of the various Standing Committees and Parliamentary Committees and they are provided with offices and such minimum staff as needed and telephones. Unfortunately, we are nine only in the CPI. Parties having less members than us have got Chairmanships and they also have facilities here in this office. I do not know what happened. I do not blame the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs nor do I point it out as the Speaker's lapse.

Anyhow parties with less than nine Members have got all the other facilities, one Chairmanship of any of the Parliamentary Committees with these facilities. I know why we were denied these facilities in this Parliament House. In this Parliament, in office a minimum facility of telephone is quite necessary to work for a party and I do not think that if the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will either complain our performance to conduct the business of the House in an orderly manner.
 ...(Interruptions)

Please do not disturb. We never disturb. We are helping in the conduct of the business in a very orderly manner.

We are denied of facilities and an office here. We are denied the Chairmanship also. So, I plead that if you consider the nationally recognised political parties for these minimum facilities in the Parliament House, that would be fair. Otherwise, we support providing these three

parties with these amenities. We have no complaints about that but keeping these facilities among the BJP, Congress and CPI (M) is not fair.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I will support the Bill. While supporting it, I have to state something about the experience which I had during the five years when I acted as the Speaker of the Kerala Assembly. The first thing which I would like to mention here is about the present tendency of the courts in taking certain decisions which are affecting the normal functioning of the House. It is specifically provided in the Constitution that regarding matters concerning the procedure to be followed in the House, we are supreme. The courts have no powers to interfere in those matters. The power of the court is to decide the validity or otherwise of the decisions taken under a particular statute. They can scrutinise the statutes passed by us and they can very well say that they are *ultra vires*. There is no harm. But so far as the procedural matter is concerned, the House is supreme. The courts cannot interfere and our Constitution is very specific in that respect.

Now, I am compelled to state something here regarding the two decisions recently taken by the High Court in our State. We respect the court. We also stand for judicial independence. We also applaud the independence of judiciary. In those matters, we have no difference of opinion. The power of the courts is complementary. We do not stand for a confrontation with the court. But the courts must realise that it is for us to decide what matters we should discuss here and what priority we should give in taking such decisions.

We have to decide certain procedural matters. I would submit that if the Members are given certain privileges, it is not the look out of the courts whether it is right or wrong. Now there is a tendency that we will have to bring a statute to give railway concession to a particular Member. It is very unfortunate. Can we go and pass statutes after statutes for giving a pencil or giving a pen or giving a bag to a particular Member? Can we do that? It is not possible. So, in procedural matters, we are supreme and the courts have no business to direct us.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am concluding. The courts have no business to direct us that we should keep a register, we should publish it in a particular paper as to whom we have issued coupons. We cannot keep a register to satisfy the requirement of the courts. That is too much. We cannot agree to that proposal. So, I would submit that this tendency must be condemned at this stage. Otherwise, public interest litigations will come

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

up and we will be pestered with decisions after decisions by each and every High Court in India. We cannot tolerate that. So, we should take a very definite stand that in matters of procedure, the House is supreme. We will not succumb to any decision of any court.

Before that, I would like to mention one thing. There are small parties. Those parties have a role to play in the present set up. There are small parties and their facility will have to be recognised. Even if they do not come under the registration rules, they are eligible to get certain privileges.

It is required for the proper functioning of a parliamentary democracy in India. We cannot ignore the contributions of smaller parties who are having five or six Members. We have to give some recognition to them. I would like to request the hon. Minister to make certain provisions for giving some benefits to the smaller parties as well.

Sir, with these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had assumed that all the related points with regard to this Bill will be raised here. I do not want to speak much on this as I had faced difficulties when I was Chief Whip of Janata Party. I congratulate the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs for bringing this Bill. Members prior to me have raised some such problems which should be addressed to. Alongwith it, I would like to say that no political party has been given sufficient space in the Parliament House where all their Members could sit and work together. I, therefore, would like to make a suggestion that a hall should be provided in Parliament House if possible or in Parliament House Annexe so that M.Ps could perform their parliamentary business. They should be allotted cupboards for their papers and other related materials. Small parties can be given separate hall and tables may be allotted to them for performing their parliamentary duties. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI (Dharward South): Sir, the Lok Shakti party in Parliament is represented by three Members and so we have no facilities in this House. So, as suggested by some other hon. Members, I want that some facilities should be provided to us by the hon. Speaker. Instead of passing a Bill in this regard the powers should rest with the hon. Speaker who could

issue necessary guidelines in this regard. It is because once it is made into an Act, the courts would also come into the picture. There should not be any law for this purpose. The powers in this regard should rest with the hon. Speaker who could guide us and give us the facilities. If it is made into an Act, then the courts would have the powers to interfere in our matters.

Sir, finally I would like to suggest that the smaller parties in Parliament should be given reasonable facilities. I support the Bill.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): Sir, it seems that on a Friday afternoon everybody is in a hurry to pass the Bills and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also seems to think as to why should we have a discussion on the Bill and it could just be passed and the Members here are also somewhat restless about it.

Sir, but I would like to submit that passage of a Bill of this kind in a hurry, deciding about the perks to be provided to the Chief Whips or anybody, should not give an impression to the people outside that this House is united and is in a hurry to pass everything that relates to their salaries and allowances, when otherwise the parties are at the throat of each other, fighting each other and are coming down to the well of the House and all such things happening here. This kind of an impression should not go down to the people outside. All the parties should also express their opinion about not taking much time in the House and allow other business also to be conducted in the House.

Sir, I appreciate the Bill moved by the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Khurana, but I feel that it could have been a better Bill than this. There is a history behind bringing in this legislation. Shri Khurana mentioned about the inclusion of the recommendations of the recently held Whips' Conference in the Bill but two to three Whips' Conferences discussed in detail the facilities that were to be accorded to the Whips for efficiently discharging their duties in Parliament.

15.00 hrs.

India is the largest democracy, the most vibrant democracy in the world. Democracy is also an expensive affair. For one hour, Parliament spends Rs. 5 lakh. But even for this poor country, this is our most precious thing. Even if it is for the people, it will be difficult to afford, but we cannot do away with this luxury because that is the life and soul of democracy. Whips are to be given certain facilities. What Shri Madan Lal Khurana has provided in this Bill? He said that some additional

telephones facility will be given. He has not mentioned how many. What is provided in this Bill is not according to the recommendation of the Whips Conference. I am not saying that this should be enhanced. I cannot make that suggestion.

There were many other things which were proposed in the Whips Conference. You are not providing a conveyance facility for the Whips. You are providing some additional posts of P.A. and peon. At least, what are the facilities that a Parliamentary Committee Chairman is getting? If you see that a Whip is to be provided a Cabinet rank or Minister of State rank, then everything will go automatically with that. We are bringing legislation in a piecemeal manner. I am not blaming the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. He might have had discussion with other party leaders also. Various issues have cropped up and we are discussing this Bill.

The legislation can be more complete also. Every now and then we cannot come with such legislation. Tomorrow you provide a car. Day after tomorrow, you provide STD facility. You have seen our parliamentary functioning. All the small parties are playing their own role in Parliament. Providing a room in this Parliament or asking to have a chair and facility to sit and write in Parliament, these kind of things need no mention. It is the responsibility of the Government or of this Parliament to see that all parties are given this facility. I have a feeling that this is incomplete. Even now it is time for Shri Madan Lal Khurana to make a *suo motu* amendment suggesting that whips can be provided Minister of State status. Automatically all other facilities will be given to them. Probably you are doing something in a very piecemeal manner.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is 3:00 clock and time for the Private Members Business. That should be taken up now. If you want to get this Bill passed, you can extend the time for discussion on this Bill with the consent of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to seek leave of the House for passage of this Bill and extend the time for discussion on it.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: It is the consensus of the House that this Bill be passed.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Some of these can be rectified. I make this suggestion.

The Deputy Leaders of the parliamentary parties are also equally responsible people. Probably this also could have been rectified. A piecemeal way of approaching this legislation may not be healthy and good. This is a matter which has been discussed in detail. As a final result, it is coming. It could have been more comprehensive. Even by making an amendment, it can be made comprehensive. I make that suggestion and I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Chief Whip of Bihar Government, I also took part in the meeting held in Bangalore, which is being mentioned here by the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Bihar is the only state in the country where Chief Whip enjoys such facilities. The Chief Whip of ruling party as well as of opposition party are accorded the status of the Minister of State. As Parliament is supreme office and represents the whole country, Chief Whips should be provided more facilities. But I was surprised to know that no such facilities are being provided here.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the points raised by hon. Chackoji and support him. Through you, I would like to make a submission to the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that Chief Whips should be accorded the status of Minister of State, then they will get all these facilities automatically. If this arrangement is made, then there will be no need to mention as to how many calls will be free. In such case they would essentially be provided an office. The job of Chief Whip is ticklish. Chief Whip of ruling party faces difficulties when the House lacks quorum. They have to go to Central Hall and other places for bringing Members of their party. They have to reply to letters written to them. All these problems should be considered. I thank you for bringing this Bill. As our other friends have said that small parties have also to face such problems. Though you have admitted in your statement that this Bill would have been brought earlier. It is better late than never. All these points should be taken into consideration while framing rules in this regard. Problems faced by small political parties should also be taken into account. There should not be any limit on number of free telephone calls. Their telephone calls should be free. Like Ministers, they should also be provided the facility of P.S., F.As. and peons. With this I thank you for allowing me to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have listened to a lot of suggestions by the hon'ble Members. I have not claimed

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

that I have brought a lot of facilities. This is a humble beginning. The recommendations made during 11th and 12th Whips' Conferences are lying before me. The 11th All-India Chief Whips Conference was held in January in Bangalore.

[English]

The Eleventh All-India Whips' Conference held at Bangalore in January, 1994 made the following recommendations:

"Chief Whips of recognised Opposition Parties in Parliament and the State Legislatures should be provided secretarial assistance and facilities of telephone and office accommodation in the premises of Legislatures by giving them statutory recognition."

The Twelfth All India Whips' Conference held at Srinagar on 21st and 22nd August, 1997 further deliberated the issue relating to the facilities to be extended to Whips.

[Translation]

They have said about the main facilities. Now the issue of rooms has been raised. Whatever rooms are available in Parliament, are before you. Today, the situation is that we are unable to provide rooms even to the Ministers. Recently a Committee about election reforms was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Indrajit Gupta. For that purpose a room was required. I gave you my room in Annexe which is allotted to Ministers.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapur): I was not aware. A lot of thanks.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: What I am saying is that the new building is being constructed. This problem will be tackled after the construction of that building. Like right now the suggestion of Deputy leader has come because the recommendations were only about Chief Whips and leader. Now the issue of deputy leader has come up. When these rooms are constructed, the case of Deputy leader will not be considered but about rooms and other thing, the issue will be considered certainly. It is submitted before you that it is a humble beginning. The benefit will be that remaining States can also do. Whenever we request them, they would reply that first get it passed in Parliament, and other States would follow. When Parliament passes it, other States will also follow that. We shall further improve with our experience. My submission is that you must pass it unanimously.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): My submission is that you must allot rooms to the recognised national parties.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: My request is that there are numerous National Parties...*(Interruptions)* Presently, no room is available. We will not pass it in this manner.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for Facilities to Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 5 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 5 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday, it was decided in the BAC meeting that it should be informed in advance that the Supplementary grants of Railway Budget will be taken up after the completion of the time of Private Members business and it has to be finished today itself.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Half-an-Hour discussion will also take place after Private Members Business.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: All right, Railway Grants will begin after six O'clock.

SHRI RAJO SINGH (Begusarai): He has got railway pass of a Minister cancelled. A petition has been filed in Allahabad High Court..(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Private Members Business will be taken up.

[*English*]

Item No. 1. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi - not present.

15.12 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of New articles 151A to 151C)

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore): I introduce the Bill.

15.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

PRICE CONTROL BILL*

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the purpose of determining the prices of all consumer goods.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the purpose of determining the prices of all consumer goods."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore): I introduce the Bill.

15.13 hrs.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS (REGULATION) BILL*

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of private schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the functioning of private schools and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA : I Introduce the Bill.

15.14 hrs.

THE BAN ON COWS LAUGHTER BILL*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit the slaughter of cow and its progeny."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ADITYANATH: I introduce the Bill.

15.14¹/₂ hrs.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY RIGHTS OF
WOMEN BILL*

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA (Nellore): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect the property rights of women and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to protect the property rights of women and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: I introduce the Bill.

15.15 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of new article for article 198)

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH (Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: I introduce the Bill.

15.15¹/₂ hrs.

POPULATION CONTROL BILL*

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA (Etawah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for population control and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for population control and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI SUKHDA MISRA: I introduce the Bill.

15.16 hrs.

THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Preamble etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI (Haridwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI HARPAL SINGH SATHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.16½ hrs.

*[English]***NATIONAL PARKS BILL***

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and control of National Parks and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and control of National Parks and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.17 hrs.

TOURISM PROMOTION BILL*

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to promote tourism in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures to promote tourism in the country."

The motion was adopted.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.18 hrs.

NATIONALISATION OF INTER-STATE RIVERS BILL*

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for nationalisation of inter-State rivers for the purpose of equitable distribution of river waters among the States and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

15.19 hrs.

HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME BILL*

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive health insurance scheme in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for comprehensive health insurance scheme in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL (Jalgaon): I introduce the Bill.

15.20 hrs.

INDIAN CITIZENS ABROAD (VOTING RIGHT AT ELECTIONS) BILL*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide the Indian citizens living abroad with the right to vote in elections to the House of the People and the Legislative Assemblies of the States."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.21 hrs.

UNORGANISED LABOUR WELFARE FUND BILL*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up a fund for the welfare of unorganised labour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up a fund for the welfare of unorganised labour."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.22 hrs.

HOARDING AND PROFITEERING PREVENTION BILL*

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of

hoarding of and profiteering in essential commodities of daily use.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the prevention of hoarding of and profiteering in essential commodities of daily use."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.23 hrs.

LAND ACQUISITION (AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.

(Substitution of New Section for Section 16, etc.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up item No. 24. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an admitted fact that the present Land Acquisition Act of 1894 is defective in many ways. The first thing which I would like to point out is regarding the compensation awarded for the land acquired. There is a lot of delay in getting awards for compensation. Now, the Collector is the competent authority and the procedure adopted there takes months and even years to complete it. Then, the reference to the civil court for further compensation also involves a number of years. So, the result is that the poor farmer is put to difficulties. He cannot get compensation at the proper time and he has to wait for years. So, this cumbersome procedure will have to be prevented, and it has to be avoided so that the peasant, who is aggrieved, may get the compensation at the proper time. So, for that purpose, we will have to simplify the procedure that is available in the present Act.

Then, the solatium granted for the improvement made in the property is also delayed. He cannot get it at the proper time. Even the compensation that is taken into consideration is very less and the solatium that is determined by the Revenue Officer is also far less than the market value. That will also result in loss to the poor peasant who has effected valuable improvements in the property. So, all these things require some drastic changes. I would support the Bill provided these provisions are made therein.

Then, I would like to point out another aspect. Now there is a provision for taking an advance possession of the property. When it is required for a public purpose, the Government or the acquiring authority can take possession of the property even without payment of compensation. That also leads to some difficulty because the land is taken possession of. The concerned revenue authorities do not take any interest in doing justice to the farmer, that is, the person who has lost his property. Such a situation should not continue for ever. That will have to be eliminated.

For that purpose, I would suggest another aspect. Once an advance possession has been taken, the land is kept idle for years. I know of instances where the revenue authorities, after obtaining possession of the property, have been keeping the property idle without doing any improvement on the property for even 15 to 20 years. The property is kept idle or fallow. No cultivation is possible there. In the end, the acquiring authority may say that the property is not required. Then, it has to be returned to the owner without any improvement. So, this process of delay should be prevented. Once the property is taken over, the Government or the acquiring authority must make it sure that the property will be required for the purpose for which it has been acquired. But that is not done. There should be a time-limit for taking advance possession of the property. Rather their taking over the property by advance possession and keeping it idle for a number of years is really doing injustice to the person who is aggrieved. So, I would suggest that there must be a time-limit. It can be one or two years and not more than that. Such an indefinite period of keeping the possession of property without doing anything is detrimental not only to the interest of the farmer—the owner—but is also a national waste even if it is done by the Government. At any rate, the possession of the property should be taken for any public purpose and the public purpose should be achieved within a short time without which there is no justification for continuing the process for a long time. This is another aspect which will have to be looked into by the concerned authorities. So, in these matters, the present law requires some changes.

I know there were municipal acquisitions of landed property. But the municipality will do nothing. They would not take possession of the property. They would not even deposit money in the Treasury for being given to the person who is aggrieved. The municipality or the local body, whichever is applicable, will remain silent for a long time. They will keep it idle for a long time without paying, to some extent, the money required. That will also lead to substantial loss to the farmer whose land is acquired. So, such an uncertain situation should not exist. These are some of the difficulties which are experienced by the farmers at large in our country. In order to obviate these difficulties, it would be better if the present Act is amended in such a way to suit the present conditions.

With these observations, I support the Bill introduced by my friend. I do agree in every way that the present statute will have to be amended. It is only just and proper that he has brought the Bill forward.

But I do not agree with the observation made by the mover of this Bill. That is not good.

With these observations, I support the Bill and the concerned Minister may take all these matters into consideration and bring a new Bill so that in the changed circumstances, the requirements of the nation as well as the requirements of the farmers could be met.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (Chhapra): Mr. Chairman, Sir the Land Acquisition Act which we seek to pass is being grossly misused in the country. Two types of land acquisition has been mainly observed. One is ordinary process and another is emergency process. If the acquisition is done under these two processes, quite often it is seen that one which should be taken under ordinary process is taken under emergency process and *vice-versa*. Therefore, there should be a clear line of demarcation as to which case falls under ordinary process and which under emergency process.

Second thing is that when we acquire the land of a farmer, it has been observed that the valuation of that land is done in such a way that the compensation of that land is to be given which has been transferred in the name of the farmer before the notification of the said purpose, but the people who want to take advantage of land acquisition process, play the trick and get the land transferred in their name barely one or two months before the date of notification for compensation. Consequently the price of the land is fixed according to the written record which is a every dangerous thing. By this way land acquisition process is a good thing. Land is acquired for public purposes but there remains a plenty of scope for fraud and manipulation in it. Therefore, this Bill should be passed after considering all these aspects.

SHRI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Bill presented by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat seeking amendment in the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. Whenever a land is acquired by the Government, quite often attention is not paid towards the fact as to whether the more judicious use of the land could be made after its acquisition or its present form. Many a times, the fertile land, quite useful for the farmers

[Shri Adityanath]

is acquired and even after many years, the proper compensation of that land is not paid to the poor tillers and farmers. I am talking about Gorakhpur. There, some land of the farmers was acquired for constructing river bunds but the farmers whose lands was acquired are yet to get their compensation. The same situation emerged at Medha in Gorakhpur suffered the loss of billions of rupees these due to the non-payment of the compensation amount and alongwith it the claim of the Government to develop that area on the pattern of NOIDA also proved hollow.

There, neither the farmers are able to cultivate nor the land is being utilised for setting up of industries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing which I would like to say is that quite often the Adivasis and poor tribals living in the forests are exploited in the name of land acquisition. Their land is forcibly evacuated. Therefore, we should definitely propose to bring legislation seeking amendment in the Constitution so that the exploitation of the local people and poor farmers of that area which continues for years in the name of land acquisition, could be stopped. They do not get the due compensation of their land. This exploitation and suffering of all those should stop. With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Idukki): Sir, I support the Bill moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. Probably some of the legislations which are centuries old are still remaining on our Statute Book. The amendment to the Land Acquisition Act—I think according to my memory the latest amendment came in 1984—was to rectify some of the anomalies that crept into the Act or which required timely changes which should have been affected into the Act. But the fact still remains that this statute requires a lot of amendments and in a developing society like ours for various reasons the Government will have to acquire land. And the Collector who is empowered according to the Act to acquire land does so by the discretionary powers. In fact, when the Collector or any other authority whoever it may be, has got very vast powers and are beyond all definitions. Probably, this is causing a lot of hardships to the land owners.

In fact, the fact still remains that this has become a racket of late. We all know that for Government purposes land is being acquired. And today because of the recessionary trends in the economy, land sale has come to a grinding halt. Land valuation is also dipping and land is not very appreciating commodity nowadays. But the fact remains that three times or four times of the

value of the land is being awarded by the courts and I cannot say here in Parliament that some malpractices or corrupt practices in the courts. Probably in Parliament if I say that corrupt practices are there in the courts, it may not be correct. But we all know the tactics applied by the interested parties, that with the connivance of the lawyers as well as of the courts unreasonable compensation in many cases is being awarded to the land owners and land acquisition cases have become a very fertile ground for many of the lawyers.

I am not blaming anybody. But the fact is that the kind of cases which are pending for years together in the courts and the compensation the Government is giving is beyond all reasonable limits which is happening on the one side. On the other side what is happening is that whatever is the malpractice or the reasonable price, three or four times of it is awarded by the courts and whatever is awarded by the court is considered as sacrosanct and there is no question also. The Government is shelling out money and this has become a very lucrative business in many cases.

Another thing which is happening is that as mentioned by my hon. friend Shri Radhakrishnan, what is the public purpose and what exactly is the extent of land required for a public purpose. Without looking into all these aspects the whole area is frozen. In fact, at many places it is happening that land acquisition is done without going into the exact requirement of the land by the Government, whether it is for an industry or for any Government purpose how much land is required, even without making a preliminary study or an exact study, one whole area is frozen. So, what is happening is ultimately the poor owner of the land cannot do any important thing if anything is needed because the whole area is frozen. One does not know how much time is going to be taken up. Here under Section 28-A about the minimum price. That is very relevant according to me because the requirement of the Government or of the public purpose, for an industrial purpose, that can be gone into at a local level.

It is in the sense that what exactly is the requirement of that particular industry or that particular public purpose can be very well defined. If 10 acre of land is required for a purpose and if the whole area is frozen, the casualty is the owner of the land. The owners, in many cases, may be poor or holders of five cents or ten cents like that. In many other industrial areas, what is happening is that the land which is in the periphery of the industrial area is always under a constant threat. They cannot do any improvement in their land. They cannot construct any building in their land because every time the threat is that this may be taken for an expansion. So, it is basically infringing into the fundamental rights of an

individual. So, land acquisition has to be rationalised and it has to be scientifically defined. That is why, this Land Acquisition Act needs a lot of amendments. Probably, an amendment should have been placed before this House officially by the Government. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has taken pains to bring some very good amendments for rationalising this old statute. I feel that many more such amendments can bring this legislation up-to-date, and which can rectify many of the lacunae or deficiencies which are existing in this law.

Some of the amendments being proposed will definitely make this law more progressive or more up-to-date. So, with that, the limited intention can be achieved by passing this Resolution. Of course, very often the Private Member's Resolution is being accepted in this House. The Government takes a view that it is after all a Private Member's Resolution. When a Resolution is being accepted, probably, it becomes almost mandatory on the Government. I do not know whether I can use the word 'mandatory'. But the Government has got a responsibility and it has to look into the sentiment and the opinion that is being expressed in this House. So, here without any dispute, none of the Members who participated in the discussion said that these proposals cannot be supported. So, this shows the unanimity, the urgency or the necessity of the amendment in such an Act. So, a very few amendments have come for the Land Acquisition Act which is a century old. Only once it had come and very minor amendments were proposed.

Now as a Private Member, the amendment moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat brings to light the urgency of the situation as to how and what kind of changes are required in this kind of a statue. Probably, in a society like ours, developmental purpose has to get some priority because there has to be some powers vested with the authorities. Otherwise, probably, the individual's freedom and the public purpose will come into clash. So, naturally, the public purpose or the public interest has to get precedent. So, in that kind of a situation, the authority with the Collectors or with the concerned officers is a must. Probably, they cannot do away with it the same time, it should not infringe beyond a reasonable level into the freedom of the individual. Here is a situation where the individuals are constantly at threat or justice is delayed to them because today it is prescribed in this amendment that if it is not used for 10 years, it can be taken back. Even 10 years is too long a period. So many things can happen in 10 years' time. How much does the property value go up if the economy is in a vibrant state? We have seen that in the past. In five years' time or in ten years' time, the property value goes up by three or four times like that. I do not think that will happen if the BJP Government is continued

because the property value is going down. The economic condition as a whole going down.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): The value of human life is going down.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Everything is going down. As Prof. Kurien said, even the value of human life is also going down. I do not know whether Major General Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri is aware of that. This danger is not there because even if the whole land is frozen, as long as your Government is there, there is no harm for the land owners. But if in a situation where the economy is to grow at a reasonable level, the land prices will increase manifold. In two or three years' time, it is going to be 100 or 200 per cent like that. Freezing the land to the disadvantage of the poor landholders is a great injustice. So, Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat has suggested 10 years' period as a limitation period. If it is not used, then you please give it back with the improvement charges. I feel let the collective wisdom of the House prevail and it should see, there is a time limitation. That will send a good message. Individual's freedom is the most important thing in our society, in our Constitution. That is always our plus point in our society. Individual freedom should not be allowed to infringe upon in an unlimited manner by the overriding powers of the Government or by the authority. That situation should not happen, and in that aspect, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. If that limitation can be further reduced to a period of five years or for three years or some reasonable period like that, it will be more useful to the people.

As public workers in day-to-day life, we come across a number of instances where such things are happening. It is a famous dictum in our legal system that justice delayed is justice denied. After 15 years, if justice is administered to somebody who is going to benefit? Administration of justice is inordinately delayed. It is happening in all these types of cases. Probably these minor amendments which are being proposed can be taken by the Government. A very responsible Member from the ruling party has moved this motion. Sometimes if it is a Private Member's Bill and if it is passed, what will happen to the Government? Then it is binding on the Government. All these kinds of things are there. We have attained flexibility in the system. So, there is no harm in Government accepting this Bill. If this Bill is passed by this House, I do not think it is going to do any harm. It is a custom in this House that the Minister will make a request or with all good intentions we discuss and we say we withdraw the Bill and that chapter is over. If there is a guarantee that Government is going to bring a comprehensive legislation, we can understand it. Otherwise, even if it is one step forward, that one step

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

is commendable and it should be accepted and I feel that the land Acquisition Act which is there needs a lot of amendment and this is one step forward in that direction. This will help landowners and also curtail the overriding powers of the authorities who are in indiscriminate manner exercise authority to the detriment of individual freedom.

I think this amendment can be accepted and the whole House, all those who support this Bill are expressing in a unanimous way that these amendments are welcome amendments. These are to be agreed upon by all the parties of this House.

With these words, I congratulate Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. It is drafted nicely in a very good legal language and in a very scientific manner and this Bill definitely deserves the appreciation of everybody in this House.

I congratulate Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat and I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I support the amendment bill brought in connection with land acquisition. I would like to tell the Hon'ble Jethmalariji that he is very fortunate that he is the Minister of Urban Affairs. Today urbanisation is going at a fast pace and the rural economy has taken a back seat. Lakhs of villages of the country are vanishing gradually and thousands of cities are coming up. I would like to know that under these conditions what step the Government propose to take so that the economy of our country could improve. Today condition is such that life of the people living in cities have become a hell. Today condition of people is worsening day-by-day due to pollution in cities. Neither there is any arrangement for drinking water nor there is electricity or proper roads. In spite of this people living in villages are migrating to towns. The situation in cities is horrible. I would urge the Government that Development Authority should be set up in every town having a population of over one lakh. The land which the Government is acquiring from farmers should be developed in a proper manner and farmers should be given appropriate price for their land. It is also not a good thing that Government is acquiring land from the farmers at cheaper rates and selling it at exorbitant rates. They should get appropriate price for their land and one Development Authority should be set up. After constituting that development authority, it should be decided as to what should be the population of that city, what quantity of water and electricity should be provided to them and what should be road network therein. Keeping in mind

these things urbanisation should be carried on. Today condition in the country is not good. People come from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to the capital city Delhi for work. Their salary is Rs. 3000 but they cannot get even a single room accommodation for Rs. 3000. Where will they live; how they can educate their children, how they will lead their life because their salary is Rs. 3000 and they are getting accommodation for Rs. 3000. How you are allowing so many people in Delhi. If the facility for power, water and roads is available for only 50 lakh people in Delhi and if the city has population of two crores then nobody will get adequate water and power supply, good accommodation or the roads. It is fortunate that an able person like you have become Minister of Urban Development. If new system is not evolved under your stewardship, if cities are not developed on a new pattern, new development authority is not created, justice is not bestowed upon the farmers and all the infrastructure is not created in the cities which have come up, it will not match to your gesture. Ministers will come and go. As you are an eminent jurist of the country and the people like you are very rare therefore I expect all these things from you. I have great expectations from you and have no hitch to request you to do a lot as you have enacted the law in this regard. It is unfortunate that today most of the cities in the country are becoming hell. The condition of district level cities is so horrible that it cannot be expressed in words. You are yourself witnessing the deteriorating condition of cosmopolitan cities. For a well developed town it is necessary that the supply of electricity and water should be made on scientific lines, there should be proper roads, express highways and good civic amenities apart from educational and health care facilities. The land acquisition is mainly done for the expansion of new cities. There are two objectives of land acquisition. First, proper arrangement should be made for habitation of people in expanding cities. Every year there is hue and cry among the farmers that Government acquires their land at cheaper prices and later on within a year same land is sold at exorbitant price. Therefore, adequate compensation should be given to farmers.

With these words, I support this Bill. My appeal to you is that the process of urbanisation should be such that it should be imitated by others.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. I also thank Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat who introduced Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill in the House at the appropriate time. It is the Act of 1894. At that time land was not costly in the cities and rural areas and now the price of land in the cities are sky rocketing.

The Collector has been empowered to acquire the land of any farmer and that too at a throwaway price. I would like to tell you that Development Authorities were constituted in some districts in Uttar Pradesh. Those Development Authorities purchased the land of farmers of the State of Rs. two or three per square yards and sold the same at the rate of Rs. two hundred or three hundred per square yards. The land which was not sold at that time is being sold at the rate of Rs. two thousand or three thousand per square yards at present. It is injustice with the poor farmers that compensation of Rs. two or three per square yards is given to them in lieu of acquiring their ancestral land and the Government agencies are making huge profit out of it.

Land of such farmers has been left abandoned till now. Owners of big factories purchase thousands of bighas of land in connivance with the Collector or the Government and they even do not use the land. There are some factories in Bareilly having large chunk of land which is lying useless. They purchased the land at throwaway prices at that time. They have planted some trees on that land to keep the land in their possession and to avoid ceiling. The land of those farmers which was purchased 40-50 years before at throwaway rates has now become costlier. I through you would like to say to Urban Development Minister and Rural Development Minister who are present in the House that the land should be returned to the framers in order to make proper development of both urban and rural areas.

They have said that the project for which the land has been given should be completed within ten years. This is the right thing. I support the view of Chacko ji that ten years is a long period in my view five years period is more than enough for setting up a factory, development of any area or any other thing by any Authority. I through you would urge the Government that this is a good bill and all of us have unanimity on it. Chacko ji was speaking that it is BJP Government. It is a fact that in 1894 there was not B.J.P. Government. It is also a fact that there was no BJP Government from 1894 to 1998. Even after 104 years there is not BJP Government. In fact it is a coalition Government of BJP and its allies. Even then I am thankful to you for showing concern about the plight of the farmers. You have supported it just to save your skin it. Even majority of the members represent the farmers. Kalapnath Rai ji has said truth about urban situation. Today the cities are converting into the slums.

I would like to raise another important issue through you regarding the migration of people from rural areas to the cities. It is a very important issue. Whether we have been able to provide education, personal security and to

rise the living standard of the people living in rural areas. Even after 50 year of independence there are thousands of villages which are inaccessible for want of roads. The most unfortunate thing is that in the event of their children or someone's wife falling sick, they are unable to take them to the hospital for their treatment. I have observed that in rural areas if one has some money he rushes immediately to the town, Tehsil headquarter or to the District headquarter and there he manages to purchase 10,20,50 or 100 square yards of land and start living there after constructing a small house. It is causing a problem in proper urban development. A person constructs a house anywhere without any proper planning. Such types of houses lack proper drainage system in absence of which, every rainy season they experience flood like situation and their house are submerged in rain water. All such unauthorised construction of houses put a big question mark on the functioning of the development authorities. It is the duty of development authority to see no building should be constructed until it proves the plan.

16.00 hrs.

But Development authorities are indifferent and building construction work goes on. Chairman Sir, you will be surprised to know that buildings are being constructed underground upto one storey. One colony has been developed in Ganesh Nagar in Bareilly. I proposed for construction of sewer line to drain out the water into the river. But when it began to rain the river water flooded the entire colony as the direction of flow of water reversed from river to colony. You just can well imagine about the work done by the development authority.

Development authorities of towns are totally corrupt. Therefore, I urge to Hon. Minister to pass this amendment. These are the petty problems which are liable for transformation of colonies into slums. As you see in Delhi, here the facilities of electricity, water and transport are in bad shape because a number of people migrate to cities for employment and education as they have no job in the villages and settle here in *jhuggis* for good.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees then the House may be extended by half an hour for the discussion on this bill as the Hon. Minister has also to reply.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Alright.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: I urge that the amendment bill introduced by Bhagwan Shankar Rawat should be passed unanimously and Government should adopt it. Land acquisition does not affect urban people but it affects rural people and farmers. People show their deep concern for farmers at the time of elections. At that time they shout slogan that "Uttam Kheti Madhyam Ban, Nikhad

[Shri Rajveer Singh]

Chakri, Bheekh Nidah" (Agriculture is the best occupation, business is a mediocre occupation, service is the worst while begging is the last resort.) But at present agriculture has become the worst occupation at present. In the last fifty years agriculture has been deteriorating.

We have just seen that the price of potato and onion rose to a great extent and there was much hue and cry on this issue. Now when the farmers are having bumper crop of potato then nobody is ready to pay even Rs. 2 for a k.g. of potato. The New potato can not be kept in cold storages either. It we see actually farmers suffer losses all the time even when they grow crops, when they sell it and above all when their land is acquired. I urge that the rate of land should be determined before acquiring the land from farmers. If development authority sells the acquired land at the rate of Rs. 1000 per sq. metre, then the farmer should be paid at the rate of Rs. 500-600 per sq. metre while they are actually paid at the rate of Rs. 10-20 per metre. It is right that development authority incur expenses on the development of the land but the actual expenses made by them should also be considered. Development authority should not be a profit making agency, it should rather provide better services to the people, but at present development authorities are becoming profit making agencies.

I am very much thankful to Hon. Member Bhagwan Shankar Rawatji who raised an important issue which was being neglected for 50 years at an appropriate time, I conclude my speech by thanking him once again.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I understand the concern and feelings of all the hon. Members. I also appreciate the efforts taken by Shri Rawat. I have taken note of all the suggestions made by the hon. Members. I have also received good suggestions from many experts and NGOs. If you go through the draft Bill, you will know that there are many good suggestions. I am going to place before the House a very comprehensive Bill. Hence, I am not accepting the Bill placed before the House by Shri Rawat in its present form and content.

So, I appeal to the hon. Member to withdraw his Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur): Sir, whether you will include the amendments introduced by hon. Rawatji in this bill?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: I agree with some of the provisions of the Bill which has been moved by the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Whether you will introduce new bill in the present session or in the next session?

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: We are trying to bring it in the present session.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I would like to know from hon. Minister that the bill which he is talking about is meant for bringing changes in the laws pertaining to urban areas or it will cover the rural areas also or both will be covered by it? Because the discussion is going on urban land ceiling, whether it will be apart from that and rural areas will be included in a separate bill—please elaborate in this regard?

[English]

SHRI BABAGOUDA PATIL: Definitely it applies to all.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Chairman Sir, I am compelled to bring this Bill in the House because nobody paid attention towards the condition of farmers. I am still at pain. Hon. Minister has told that the suggestions put in the House are fine, alas! he would have mentioned that which the suggestions he liked and which he did not. But I can say very confidently that hon. Minister would pay sincere and serious attention to the points which were brought to his attention. I would not like to repeat my views expressed earlier but I would like to submit a few points through you.

Sir, condition of farmers are very bad. So far as the urban land ceiling act is concerned it has harassed the small farmers and they deserve mercy. I would like to draw your attention towards the All India Census Report on Agriculture, 1985-86, which was published in 1992. It shows that percentage of Marginal Holders who hold less

than one hectare land is 17.8 percent. 18.4 percent farmers hold land between one to two hectares, 76 percent farmers have uneconomical holding but they are making both ends meet. Average land holding size of marginal farmers is 0.39 hectare. Average size of small holdings is 1.43 hectare. Although Government think that the land acquired from the farmers under the law is very small in quantity, but the fortune of farmers ends here and they lose their means of sustenance.

16.09 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

So far as irrigation facility is concerned, 55 percent of land is unirrigated, 17.8 percent is partially irrigated and 27 percent is irrigated. If somebody's irrigated land is acquired by Government then he loses all the means of sustenance. I would like to draw your attention towards the report of Law Commission which was presented by the famous legal expert Shri M.C. Shitalwat on 26th September, 1958.

He stated in the Tenth Report of the Law Commission—

[*English*]

"As far as possible, everyone, who is deprived of his property by compulsory acquisition, should be enabled by the compensation awarded to him to place himself in substantially the same position in which he was before the acquisition. The community which benefits from the acquisition must also bear the burden of justly compensating the owner."

[*Translation*]

As per the present provisions there are three types of compensation. First compensation is the cost of the land acquired, second is the consolation amount which is given against rendering them homeless and jobless. The third compensation is in the form of the amount which is awarded on the increased rate of 12 percent after the issuance of the notification under section 4. I fail to understand as to why is it not the case for giving compensation. The Government version is that it would give interest only on the actual amount of compensation fixed for the acquisition of land. However, it would not pay any interest on the amount given as consolation amount. This is unfair. Interest should be paid on the total amount of compensation. This is very important. I find a lot of discrepancies in it. The Government follow

one rule while fixing the rate for giving compensation for land acquisition and another when someone approaches to get the lands of farmers registered. They say that there is a flat rate. The rate of registration charges is different. Again in the matter of wealth tax, the rate changes. After all, why there are three rules under the same constitution. When land has to be acquired from farmers the Government have its own arbitrary rules. When wealth tax etc. has to be levied the Government frame yet another rules in arbitrary manners. The valuation is done by the Government at high rates. Regarding the sale and purchase of stamp duty, the State Government charges at the rate of two thousand rupees per yard or it may be few lakhs per bigha irrespective of the actual market cost. Such rules and such discrepancies should be done away with. Provision of three different rules is against the law of natural justice.

Sir, while making an appeal in the High Court, in majority of states, the stamp duty is seven percent. How can the farmer manage the money for stamp duty at the rate of seven percent if he wants to claim the compensation amount? I would like to congratulate Shri Prakash Singh Badal who has made a provision under which anybody can appeal in the court by simply paying a stamp duty of Rs. 100. Farmers are not in a position to file appeal due to the stamp duty charged on the total amount at the rate of seven percent. Farmers are either looted or as one of my colleagues has said, they search for a middleman who would fight case on their behalf and would depend on their mercy in case he manages to win the case. In this way farmers remain always poor. Even if they get their money after winning the case in the High Court, the major part of that money goes in the pocket of those who fight their cases. This is but natural.

Sir, if the rule in this regard can be adopted by the Government of Punjab the same can also be adopted by the Central Government. The Indian Limitation Act is applicable throughout India but so is not the case with this rule. This is a blatant injustice. If someone commit a murder the Limitation Act will not apply to him but if some one's land is acquired the Limitation Act will apply to him. The farmers should get rid of this colonial law. Now when we are in the next phase after golden jubilee celebration of our independence, we should resolve to do away with this anti people law. The Government should ensure that when land is acquired from farmers forcibly by law and not with their consent, they get suitable compensation according to the provision of the Law Commission. When the Government is acquiring the land for its own purpose, farmers must get proper compensation for their land. I came across one article about the decision of the Supreme Court concerning provision of interest. It was drafted by some K.C. Jain, Advocate.

[Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

The Supreme Court earlier held this view that interest should be paid. My friends were discussing in the morning that while arguing a case in the Supreme Court an advocate didn't quote some earlier references, precedents as a result thereof the Supreme Court gave an another decision. We will have to ponder over the Judicial system that whether is it the responsibility of the farmer to justify his case in the court. If there is a pronouncement, judgment of Supreme Court that it is the law of the land. Therefore, justice will have to take some responsibilities to take some notice in regard to law. In this case, it was happened that all the previous laws were abolished and those laws were not even distinguished in it and it went against the interest of farmers.

Therefore, I asserted that in the matter of interest this system should be corrected because after 20 years when farmers get interest, they get a meagre amount as compensation but they do not get full amount of interest. If farmers owe any amount to the Government, they have to pay it with the compound interest but Government willn't pay the interest to the farmers even at the simple rate of interest. I reiterate that farmers should be paid the interest on the entire amount.

Secondly, Government should acquire the land of the farmers at such a time when there is no standing crop. I have an example of Agra. Government is bungling. The farmers of village Dhadhupura are also victim of Government's high handedness. They have already sowed the Rabi crops and Government says that it is going to acquire it. Farmers purchased the fertilisers, seeds and made arrangements for irrigation after taking a loan from Land Development Bank and after investing his entire money, when he is going to have a bumper crop then administration says that it will acquire it tomorrow. Farmers cry out and desperately try to save their crops as their children will die out of hunger. Today, they are knocking remaining from pillar to first to get a stay to the decision of acquiring of land by the administration till the crop is ready. But the Government officials remain unmoved. By this way, the farmer is looted with these words. I would like to conclude myself while to requesting the hon'ble Minister that he should mention the points, he didn't like.

I would like to say that within a stipulated time introduce this bill so that farmers may get relief. I would like that Hon'ble Minister should introduce this bill in the next session of Parliament.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BABA

GOUDA PATIL): Sir, we are trying to club the RR. Policy alongwith this Bill. If it is possible, we are going to place this Bill in this session.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to Hon'ble Minister that he considered my emotional appeal. Therefore, I withdraw this Bill with this belief that he will make an appropriate law in regard to land acquisition and give relief to farmers.

[English]

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Land Acquisition Act, 1894."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I withdraw the Bill

THE MAINTENANCE OF NATIONAL REGISTER OF CITIZEN BILL*

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Sir, I beg to propose "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prepare and maintain a National Register of Citizens and to issue Photo Identity Cards to all the citizens".

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prepare and maintain a National Register of Citizens and to issue photo identity cards to all the citizens."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Sir, I introduce the bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, Dated 18.12.98.

THE CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of article 85)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Sir, I propose that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

THE ELECTION LAW (AMENDMENT) BILL*

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Sir, I propose that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Sir, I introduce the Bill.

Published in the Gazette of India Extra-ordinary, Part II, Section 2, Dated 18.12.1998.

[Translation]

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Substitution of new schedule for tenth schedule)

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi): Sir, I propose that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.24 hrs.

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Insertion of new Article 29A etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move:

"That a Bill to further amend the Constitution of India may be taken for consideration."

[English]

The State shall provide uniform, free and compulsory education up to primary school level to all citizens.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am introducing this Bill with a larger perspective. Framers of our Constitution had made a provision in the article 45 of the Directive Principles that the State shall endeavour to provide within a period

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[Shri Mohan Singh]

of ten years for free and compulsory education for all the children until they complete the age of 14 years. But now when we are celebrating 50 years of our independence and trying to project India as a strong and good nation in the world, if we look upon the state of education we find that it is in a very unfortunate state as the report of UNESCO reveals that two third of illiterates of the world are living in India. While replying to a question the hon. Minister had stated that among 174 countries of the world India's position stands on 139th in terms quality of human resources. Our standard has gradually decreased during last seven eight years. India has come to 139th position from its earlier 131. This trend is still continuing.

Several commissions have been set up in our country to suggest changes in our education policy. One important commission was set up in 1964 under the chairmanship of Dr. D.S. Kothari which is known as Kothari Commission. The Commission had submitted two voluminous report in which they gave a very positive recommendation regarding the primary education. There was a mention of neighbourhood school in that report. Neighbourhood school is an old concept of our culture and tradition, which was like Krishna-Sudama tradition in our country. The same model was introduced in one country. The same model was introduced in one of our states in the name of 'Charwaha Vidyalay' but that model of school is in a very bad condition. What is this neighbourhood school? It is an institution opened in many developed countries by the Government, or the Government Institutions or by local bodies in a particular area. The concept behind the neighbourhood school was that the wards of every class such as Sanitation employees, the D.M. industrialists and capitalists and other people of a particular area invariably go to the same school so that we would see creation of a new order a new society and new persons in the society. And that is the idea behind this Bill. The Government should ensure compulsory, free and uniform primary education to all children being born in our country. I think that the state of primary education is deteriorating in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a mention here of the Operation Black Board. How far this Operation Black-Board has succeeded? Earlier, the management of Primary Schools in villages was under District Board; now the Government have taken over the management of the primary schools and since then the situation has deteriorated all the more. Now there is a shortage of primary schools, teachers and students. This is the irony of the country where half of the population of a country is almost illiterate and where children are not even getting primary education, it calls for a serious consideration on the part of the Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is why I have been consistently emphasising on the point that one tenth of our total budget should be spent on education, on the development of human resources. Though we have seen eight-nine Five Years Plans, but the budget allocation on education could not be more than one, two, three or four percent. The present Minister says that he will make it six percent of the budget allocation. This is a matter of pleasure. But the view point of the Government regarding the quality of primary schools or quality of the students studying therein or the quality of education in such schools after spending such an amount have not been made clear, but when we see it from the practical point of view we find the situation quite dark.

Elite class of the society has made separate arrangements for education of their wards. I happened to visit a residential school yesterday where they are imparting education upto primary level. It is a private school and has been opened in a remote village. I saw the children in school uniform. I heard them, their pronunciation was good and their voice was also good. They were maintaining good health. A uniform culture i.e. we all are human beings and the citizen of India is being inculcated among the children irrespective of the caste and religion. I asked the management as to how much they are spending and what is the fee they are charging for making them imbibe such pious virtues. I was told that forty five thousand rupee per child per annum is being charged from the guardians, as boarding and lodging expense including the tuition fee forty five thousand rupee per year the school charges for education from Nursery to class fifth.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in a country where 18 percent population as per the Government statistics and 30 percent population as per other statistics are living below the poverty line, are they capable of paying Rs. 45 thousand per child on such an education for their children? Such convent schools have been opened in hill stations like Shillong, Nainital, Mussorie, Shimla and Ooty where a different type of culture is being inculcated among the students and Rs. 22 thousand to 35 thousand are being charged as tuition fee. They do admit a few so called brilliant students for name sake and charge no fee from them. In this way one to two percent children do got admitted in the school. But what would be the future of the children belonging to majority of the population of the society, who are not able to pay such huge fee and what would be the quality of their education?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Pt. Pant ji who was once Education Minister of the country conceived an idea of opening a new type of school and such model schools are being opened now. It is to be seen that how many

children of the entire district are able to get admission in them. These schools are known as Navodaya Vidyalaya and they have the capacity to enroll only 200 to 250 children from a district which is very less. Primary education should be made compulsory, it should be uniform and no fee should be charged for it so that we are able to make every child a good citizen of India who is imbued with virtues like loyalty towards the motherland. Then only we can establish a new society in the country and can say that we want to make it a civilized country.

With these words I move the Bill hoping that the hon. Minister will appreciate my intention and will try to see as to the manner in which the Bill should be brought and the section it should be included into. I would like it to be included in the Chapter on Fundamental Rights because the Directive Principles of State Policy are mere principles which the states should follow in making laws. They are useful but we have seen during this period the efforts that have been made by the Government in this direction and its outcome. Primary education should be made free and compulsory for all children and it should be the duty of this Government which intends to establish a welfare state to provide such education. Only then we will be able to achieve our goal.

Since you have allotted two hours for discussion. With these words I conclude so that all the hon. Members can participate in the discussion and the hon. Minister of Education gets time to make an appropriate reply.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU (Mahasamund):
Hon. Chairman, Sir, we all agree and support the views expressed by hon. member Mohan Singh ji while introducing his bill. Shri Murl Manohar Joshiji who has very good knowledge of Science and Technology is our Education Minister at present. Whole country is looking towards him seeking his guidance for implementing constitutional provisions in regard to education and culture to enlighten the society. I am not talking about the enlightenment, basically I want to draw your attention towards the para No. 4 of the National Agenda of our Government. One point is mentioned in that that gross domestic product is touching 6 percent but on the other hand non-plan expenditure has also increased. But there is a commitment to implement the provision of constitution to provide free and compulsory primary education upto fifth class. However, no special provision has been made in the constitution to include compulsory basic education upto the fifth class as a fundamental right as has also been mentioned here by hon. Member. This House and the country as a whole are aware that the number of child labour is very high and the concept of basic education lacks thrust. Those child who should have been going to schools, use to go for rag picking in the morning.

They wonder here and there and satiate their hunger by taking leftovers of food stuff. Is it a good picture?

Last time hon. Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had declared that Government will provide free food to the students upto eighth class. But what happened to that? How many students are getting the food? Is it practical? Now the question before us is that whether we have given due importance to its necessity. The statement of the reasons and objects of this bill clearly mentions about the poor that:

[English]

People cannot afford to send their children to school for want of means.

[Translation]

If we really want to make future of the country then we will have to make provision for basic education for children living in remote rural areas, in forest areas and in hilly areas. We discuss various issues in our country. We talk about new education policy. Education system has become topic of discussion in the seminars, in university campus and it is a very good topic for intellectuals also. We talk about how, why and to that extent we may implement Lord Maccaulay's education policy. We discuss here about the universalisation of education, universalisation of basic education but what is its outcome? Education, health and public welfare are essentially included in the state list. Even then the situation is very miserable. If there is a primary school in a village there is no school building. If there are students in primary school then there are no teachers, no setting arrangement and there is not chalk and blackboard. In future how will we be able to fulfill this fundamental duty of our country. We do tall talks. We consider ourselves to be the citizens of a spiritualised country and say that it is the education which helps create human qualities. But even after that what is happening? If we do a serious discussion on this Bill, it will surely prove to be a landmark Bill.

We discuss here that the various recommendations of Acharya Rammurti Commission will be implemented. But what is the situation prevailing in the States? What is stated by the Chief Minister and Education Minister of States causes concern. There is a great 'Hangama' in this country for 'Sarasvati Vandana'. What the senior most member of this House hon. Advaniji was saying on 'Dharma Chakra Pravartanayah' does not need to be repeated. But where are we leading to? What message do we want to give? When we are making efforts to link various cultures and 'Sanskaras' to our education, then fighting by an education Minister on a non issue sounds absurd.

[Shri Chandrashekhar Sahu]

I would also like to draw your as well as attention of the House to what is being done in the name of literacy. Previous Governments prepared a number of schemes regarding literacy which also includes Adult Education Mission. What is the state of those campaigns whether they are governmental or non-governmental. In Madhya Pradesh Bharat Gyan Vigyan Samiti BGS was entrusted with this work but it could not do anything. Now the education and literacy programme is being implemented through collectors but nothing concrete is being done. We can say literacy is the biggest Governmental fraud of the century where nothing but scams are taking place. If we spend that amount on basic education then it will produce result, it will improve the situation. What is the condition of Navodaya Vidyalaya in my constituency, hon. Education Minister and Human Resource Development minister has already visited whole nation, he knows about the people, their way of living and the condition in which they are studying. There is no Principal, no building in Navodaya Vidyalaya since its establishment, no boy has got admission in class one because no building is there to sit in. What can we do? This is the situation and I believe it seems that there should be some legal compulsion and only then our society will pay attention towards basic education, towards inculcating high moral values.

I am concluding my speech by drawing attention of hon. Human Resource Development Minister that on the issue of basic education whole country is with you, whole House is with you and you just march ahead to accomplish this mission. I support this bill and with that conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the Bill introduced by Shri Mohan Singh. Now, as we all know, there are two types of Rights provided in the Constitution. Unfortunately, the provision for primary education is provided as an unjustifiable right included in the Directive Principles of State Policy. We have attained freedom 50 years ago. Half a century is over. It is high time now to review the situation prevailing in India. The United Nations Declaration is there. They have made a solemn Declaration that the entire humanity should be literate by the turn of the century. That is a Declaration which is made applicable throughout the globe. It is a global Declaration. In matters like population growth, India will be in the first position in the world by the turn of the century. We will surpass China in that respect and India is to become the first nation having the largest number of illiterate people. We are ashamed to say that our nation will have the largest number of illiterate people who do not know how to read and write. That is the present

situation. After 50 years of freedom, we have not done much in the field.

At this stage, I must tell you something about my State, Kerala. Now, Kerala is a State where we have attained total literacy in the year 1990. Almost total literacy could be achieved through different missions. The Government took the initiative and there was a solemn declaration about eight years back that we have to achieve total literacy. This is a gradual process. In the process, many agencies worked hard to achieve this public goal. How did the State of Kerala achieve total literacy through different agencies? It was achieved not through Government machinery alone. Government machinery or the public schools are in a minority sector in the field of education. Most of the educational institutions belong to the private sector. They were able to achieve total literacy for the simple reason that there was earnestness of purpose. There was political will behind that move.

When I speak about Kerala, I will be doing injustice if I do not speak a word about the Christian missionary and their role in making Kerala a totally literate State. Christian missionary have played a significant role in converting the State into a literate State. They have opened up their schools in almost all the villages and are catering to primary education at the lower level. It is not only that.

In this respect, there is another significant factor which I will have to mention. I would have to mention about the service rendered by Shri Narayana Guru, the social reformer of the country. He has done yeoman's service. He was for upliftment of the backward communities which formed the bulk of the population. The majority of the people belong to the backward communities. There were people who were treated as untouchables. They were not allowed to use the public road. They were not allowed to study in Government schools. It was at that time he came to the forefront, organised the backward community, and had given the call that they become stronger through education. So, people of the backward community were compelled to make their attempt a success by educating themselves. No child was left without being sent to school.

Primary education is the most important public effort in the State. The entire State was declared as a literate State in 1990, making it a model to other States in India. This could be achieved because they have instituted a Literate Commission and with the efforts of the Commission, people at large and the library institutions there took active part in making the people literate.

We have libraries throughout the State. We had organised library movement in Kerala. In every village, three or four libraries with reading rooms are functioning. These libraries teach the illiterate people every night and that was done throughout the State. The library movement is run not through Government aid but it was through the strenuous work of voluntary organisations. They have organised the people and they were able to control the villagefolk and they were taught to read and write. In such a situation, the services rendered by the library movement will have to be commended upon and we will have to remember it. There were other organisations also like the youth organisations and other public organisations which played their role in making the State, a literate State. With the efforts of all these voluntary organisations, it was possible for the State of Kerala to declare total literacy.

Then we take the case of India, we have the National Literacy Programme. We are also doing some work under this Programme. But, fortunately some States have taken interest in propagating literacy in their respective States. But as a national effort, nothing has been done to achieve complete literacy. So, I would suggest the Central Government to provide adequate funds for the National Literacy Programme. Mere propagation is not enough. All the States must be encouraged and the organisations functioning in different States must be asked to propagate the idea of literacy throughout the nation. For that purpose, I would request the hon. Minister to make strenuous efforts to make this National Programme a complete success. Then only, our nation can become a proud nation.

Now, we are only having 50 per cent literacy in India. In order to achieve this goal of hundred per cent literacy, I would suggest that the primary education be made compulsory. It must be a justiciable Fundamental Right. Every child born in India should be given education. Child is entitled to get primary education. It is the primary duty of the nation to see that children are given education. For that purpose, I support the idea put forward by Shri Mohan Singh that primary education be made compulsory. It is there in the Directive Principles of State policy. But that is not a Fundamental Right. So, it is not enforced through the court of law. So, it has to be made a Fundamental Right in our Constitution. Merely making it a Fundamental Right is not enough. We must provide necessary Budgetary provisions to all the States because the subject of education is in the Concurrent List. The Central and the State Governments should make all out efforts to see that the entire population becomes literate.

For that purpose, sufficient budgetary provision should be made and the National Literacy Mission, which is now

under the Central Government, must be made more effective. It must be given all the encouragement by the Ministry of Human Resource Development and make the National Literacy Mission a complete success. Towards that end, primary education must be made a fundamental right.

In these circumstances, I strongly support the idea put forward by Shri Mohan Singh and I support the Bill.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank hon. Mohan Singhji that he has introduced a fine bill in the House at an appropriate time. It is a good idea that primary education should be compulsory and the Government should ensure compulsory primary education for all and sundry. In my view it will be of no help to leave it entirely on the Government.

Today the level to which our education system has reached in that scenario, it is not sufficient to go school only. Neighbourhood concept was just being discussed here, at which I will comment at a later stage. You make the primary education compulsory for children but it must be mentioned that which type of education we want. We see two three things in today's education system. Today we are over enthusiastic about literacy mission and we wish that every man should learn to put his signatures, we felt pleasure in calling him a literate but it is not going to benefit our country. You can give an impressive data. You may feel satisfied by saying that our 90 per cent people are literate but what is the purpose of education? Just to prepare data or to distribute certificate or degrees to boys which are unable to get them a job. Such education has no value. Such type of education is of no use. The purpose of education should be character building. Education should make our boys good citizens. We should prepare individuals in a manner that they could contribute in the making of a strong nation.

All the problems that are coming up at present are because of the fact that we have not linked our education system with such an ideology which serves interest of the nation. Unless we make our education a medium of character building the education can not be a medium of serving the interest of nation. Making education compulsory will not serve the purpose rather it will be harmful.

If we are able to decide that we will impart education based on a particular ideology then it will be advantageous to make it compulsory. Just now there was a discussion

[Mej.Geh. Bhuvan Chandra Khanduri, AVSM]

on neighbourhood concept. I am for it. This should be done but how will it be possible? Today the system that is prevalent in our schools and the manner in which education policy is being implemented lacks of systematic approach. Those affluent can afford to send their children to big schools, but unfortunately those schools are unable to prepare good citizens. I have no hesitation in saying this. Such big schools are unable to produce good citizens they are just producing snobs, who are not compatible to our culture, perhaps they may be good for western culture, but they are not get alongwith our culture.

Earlier the emphasis on education was laid on teaching basic courtesy. How a child should behave with his elders and with his neighbours and he used to think about his country. Today the aims of our education is just restricted to obtaining the certificate and earning money.

17.00 hrs.

I am sorry to say that these schools are producing snobs. As has already been mentioned that these big schools are charging Rs. 45000 per annum, but there are same schools where children have to pay Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 11,000 per month. There is nothing new in it. There are such schools in Delhi. In this situation we have to see that what type of education system we are providing.

A mention has been made about neighbourhood concept. It is not a new concept. Earlier there was Gurukul system in our country. Children used to get the Guru's house. Lord Krishna and Sudama studied in the same school. Rama, the son of the king, used to go to the house of the same Guru where poor children also studied. It appears that after dependence our outlook has turned in such a way that we all want to relinquish the old culture and its merits. We want to forget all these things. On top of that a comment is made that we have turned modern, and have become westernised. If we will imbibe there ancient virtues beliefs then we will be rated backward and communal. I urge upon you I consider this. As regards Saraswati Vandana in the House. I don't want to go into this issue. But we should not hesitate in adopting own historical and ancient concepts and rituals. I do agree with the neighborhood concept. While supporting it. I would like to draw your attention towards it, though while replying you will explain the difficulties in adopting the ancient system. I would like to tell you that our ancient culture and ancient Sanskar are the way of life. How life should go on? There is a need for adopting the ancient culture and Sanskar.

Sir, this type of education should be made compulsory, but I feel that this is not an easy task. Just now hon'ble member Shri Radhakrishna Ji has mentioned about funds, I would like to tell him that ours is a big country and the geographical conditions are not alike. So there is also problem of funds. The member who spoke before me has said that there are such families who don't send their children to schools. The reason if that they are the earning members of the family. They start earning money at the age of ten or even before attaining the age of 10 years. If there are three or four children in one family and if each one picks up rag worth Rs. 20-25 per day then three or four children will fetch more than Rs. 100-150 by working from morning to evening. How will you solve this problem. How will these children be brought to schools, the Government has to consider this too. The hilly regions and tribal regions have their own problems because their difficult conditions. I would like to tell you about the conditions in my constituency. If the same norms are adopted for hilly regions as are being applied to Delhi then it will have problems. As per the prevailing norms a primary school should be located at a distance of 3 to 4 kms. Whereas in Delhi the parents will drop their children to school on their bicycles, but in the hilly region children have to cover this distance on foot, and it will take two to three hrs. or more. In these areas there are certain schools where for reaching school the children take 3 hours while going and 4 hours while coming and thus they spend about 7 to 8 hours of a day in going and coming back from schools. The Government has to pay heed to such problems as to how they can be tackled.

Hon'ble Minister is himself an educationist he is a qualified person. I would like to request him that while making the education compulsory it should also be considered that what type of education we intend to impart to the citizens and it should be implemented by consensus. With this, I support the bill.

[English]

SHRI KHAGAPATI PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill moved by Shri Mohan Singh. I support its contention to make it compulsory, free and established residential schools.

Kerala is a State where literacy percentage is cent per cent. The credit goes to the primary education. Unless one is educated in a primary school, he cannot be literate. That is the first thing.

Then comes the higher education. So, we should give more stress to the primary education than any other

education in order to improve the education of the people of our country.

Sir, I come from a place which is a tribal area. The percentage of literacy in the rural areas in my district is 10 per cent; the percentage in the district itself is 18 per cent and the percentage in the State is 35 per cent. The Government of India and our constitution had given a privilege to the tribal and weaker sections. It says:

"The State shall promote with special care the educational economic interest of the weaker sections of the people and in particular of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social justice and all sorts of exploitation."

Sir, this is the guarantee given by the Constitution. But after fifty years of our Independence, what we have achieved is only 10 per cent. There are many problems as far as giving education to the people is concerned. TRW schools are there. The Government of Orissa has established one hostel each in every Panchayat but there are limitations. Only 40 students can live in each hostel and get the stipend at the rate of Rs. 200 per month. You can imagine how a boy can maintain himself with Rs. 200. Out of this amount of Rs. 200, about Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 is deducted from the stipend for soap, oil, clothing, etc. and with the remaining amount of Rs. 170 or Rs. 180 he has to get his food, two meals a day, that is 60 meals per month.

Now, in a Panchayat, where the population is about 3,000 to 4,000, there are only 40 seats which are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There are no residential schools for other classes in my constituency. With these 40 seats in a place where the population is 44,000, how do you expect that one hundred per cent literacy rate can be achieved?

Now, the literacy campaign is going on in my constituency and a lot of money has been allotted for that. They are going to maintain a number of voluntary organisations to educate those people and also to improve their education. Unless we make a special provision for this, we are not going to achieve it.

I do not think that this Total Literacy Campaign programme will come to a success. The only reason behind this is this. We have established schools in every village, in every hamlet. There are three to four teachers in a school. As my previous friend has said, the teachers reside outside the village and they come from a far away place to attend the school and they sit in the school for one or two hours and go home.

We are spending lot of money on the building of schools and paying salaries to the teachers, but still our people do not get education.

In my area, the dropout percentage in the primary education is 80, only 20 per cent of the people learn how to read and write.

What are we expected to get from this TLC? We are not going to spend any money on the voluntary organisations. The people in the voluntary organisations will teach 12 people in a group of houses. So, without paying any money and without giving any assistance to these volunteers who are working, how do you expect them that they can train or teach many more boys than the primary schools which are already functioning there?

I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this and request him to think over this matter about these TLC schools specially in backward and tribal areas where the percentage of literacy is very bad. I have already said that it is 10 per cent. If there is any doubt, it may kindly be verified. We have achieved it after 50 years. How many years will it take to make them hundred per cent literate, I do not know. I do not think that it can be achieved any time during this century or in the next century.

that is why I would suggest that the number of these residential schools should be increased and the stipend should be raised to a considerable extent so that the drop-outs can be reduced to a considerable extent. With this meagre amount no boy can stay there and maintain himself. That is why the percentage of the drop-outs is so high. We should try to reduce it to a considerable extent.

I wish that the Constitution is also amended, not only especially the provision in the Constitution for Scheduled Castes and Tribes of weaker sections of the people but the people in general, also, I would like to suggest that it should be compulsory and free education should be provided to the boys in the residential schools so that we can achieve a percentage of literacy higher than what we are trying. I hope that in some areas the time may come when we may achieve hundred per cent literacy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the motion introduced by the hon. Member Shri Mohan Singh regarding making of the primary education compulsory and free is really commendable. I

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

would like to thank Shri Mohan Singh for introducing such an important motion in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the stage of primary education where from the development of civilization and culture as also human development start. However, that sort of primary education is completely missing. Nowadays even the villagers send their wards to commercialised private educational institutions rather than sending them to Government schools. Why is it so, is a very very important issue to think upon. What are the reasons leading to this situation and who are responsible for it? This also calls for a consideration. A good number of private schools are now opening in villages. Government schools are there, but students prefer private schools. The threat today is that if we do not develop a uniform education system, then the onslaught on our civilization and culture would also aggravate. What is happening today is that students of villages are seeking admission in big schools of cities. The people of villages somehow manage to admit their children in those schools even by selling their land, but these students develop inferiority complex to find themselves poor in comparison to those rich students who come to the schools in cars worth five lakh rupees.

Therefore, the first requirement is to make such a provision in the primary education under which children of the rich and the poor get education in the same school. If there is no system of living and dinning together, the poor children of villages become psychologically depressed at that very stage.

I think there are three-four reasons behind sending the children to private schools. One of the reasons is that teachers of primary schools have been politicised. I do not know about the whole of the country, but I can say clearly about Bihar to which I belong, that there the vacant posts of teachers in primary schools are not filled. There are two or three teachers against the existing strength of nine posts. Secondly, teachers refrain from going to the school. I am using the word politicisation because if you by chance throw a stone towards a tea stall of a village, the person getting hit surely be some teacher of a primary school, because they are in the habit of sitting in tea stalls. The State Government should, therefore, first of all give an instruction to the higher officers of schools to strongly compel the teachers to remain in their schools. There should be an inspection so that teachers go to schools.

The second reason is that eligible and right candidates are not being appointed teachers because of

the provision of reservation in their appointment. Mohan Babu will be surprised to hear that once Ramkatha was being taught in a school when suddenly the inspector of schools came there for inspection. He asked one of the students of that school to let him know as to who broke the bow of Shiva. That student stood up and started weeping and said that he did not do so. He further said that the student sitting beside him was a naughty boy and that he broke it. The inspector asked the teacher as to what that boy was telling. At this, the teacher requested the inspector of school to kindly excuse that boy and he further said that since he was naughty he must have broken the bow for which he would beat him. After that the inspector went to the headmaster and narrated the replies given by the student and the teacher. He asked what sort of teachers were appointed there. At this the headmaster also requested him to kindly forgive and he assured that the student would be rusticated from the school. The inspector then went to the Secretary to inquire as to what sort of headmaster and teacher were appointed in the school. At this he said that the mistake was already committed by the student, so he would purchase the same brand of the bow and would ensure that the same was not broken in further.

When such guys are running the educational institution, what would be the standard of education. This is why I would like to submit that the deterioration in the standard of education can be attributed to the reservation policy of appointing teachers. Serious thought should be given about the affairs of such a department and the Central Government should make an arrangement not to appoint teachers in educational institutions on the basis of reservation and where State Government are appointing teachers on the basis of reservation, there the Central Government should give an instruction to them not to appoint teachers on the basis of reservation. Secondly, I would like to say that when hon. Member Mohan Singh was speaking then without telling the name of the State Government he said that a "Charwaha Vidyalaya" was being run in a state. I would like to tell to Mohan Babu that "Charwaha Vidyalaya" was being run with a political view not with a view to impart education. It was being run in order to usurp the Government land of Agriculture farm and to give it in the control of a particular caste so that the place may be used as party office. Therefore, their "Charwaha School" ended in a fiasco. When you visit Bihar you will not find there any school building, teacher or students. There you will find a board of "Charwaha Vidyalaya" and the people belonging to a particular caste, who have taken the possession of the Government land. It happened because the Government neither had any good intention nor made any arrangements to impart education. It was a political stunt. Let there be no such proposals to open "Charwaha

Vidyalaya" on the lines of Bihar elsewhere otherwise the entire country will have to suffer like Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, earlier the teachers used to teach their pupils with great dedication but that dedication is no more there at present. Guru imparts education and the student also accepts him as a Guru. But when the intention of the Guru is not good then you can imagine what would be the fate of the student. The academic environment is missing in many states and Bihar tops the list in this regard. Union Minister of Education is present in the House. The Minister of Education is a scholar. Union Minister of Education should think seriously about primary education in Bihar and find proper way out in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my suggestion is that private schools should be banned. Because they are professional schools. But there would be difficulty in banning these schools until we appoint the required number of teachers in Government primary schools and construct school buildings. The situation of the village schools is that if there is teacher then there are no students and if there are students there is no teacher there. If teacher and students both are there, then there is no school building. If there is school building then duster and chalk are not available in the school. Therefore, primary education is in shambles. I would request through you that necessary steps should be taken to improve primary education system.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I would like to mention two problems of my area to the hon. Minister of Education. Navodaya Vidyalaya, Saran is running for the last four years in Bangla Village of Jalalpur Block. Earlier a Teachers Training School was being run in this school. But due to non-receipt of Government grant a separate building of Navodaya Vidyalaya could not be constructed. Land for school is available there. Later on I came to know that former Chief Minister Shri Lalu Prasad ji was not interested in opening a school there. He had sent an objection letter to the Union Government when Bommai Sahib was the Minister of Education. An enquiry was initiated. He made efforts to shift the school to another place. But all his efforts were in vain as Bommai ji the then Minister of Education did not accede to his demand. The school is running at that very place. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that I will bring all the papers relating to this issue and meet you in your office within a day or two and I will give these papers to you. We want that allocation should be made by the Union Government for the construction of school building so that the school may run properly and primary education should be imparted in a proper manner there. This is the general belief that the standard of education in Navodaya Vidyalaya is good. You should run the school properly

so that the children belonging to that area could avail this facility.

Secondly, a Central School for Masrakh was sanctioned when Shri Chandrashekhar ji was the Prime Minister of India. The Central School could not be opened there as the State Government did not provide land for the school. I wrote you a letter. You have replied that there is no problem in opening a Central School there. But the land should be provided for this purpose. Therefore, I request you to kindly invite a proposal from the State Government for opening up of a school on thirty-two acres of land belonging to agricultural department which is lying unused. Meanwhile you can run your school in the existing inter college building of which I am the Secretary. I promise you to extend all kind of help, including rooms for teachers, in order to run the school. You kindly start a Central School in Masrakh. With these words I congratulate Shri Mohan Singh ji and request the hon'ble Education Minister to keep check on the Bihar Government in order to bring the faulty education system of Bihar back on track which is in a mess at present.

SHRI HIRA LAL ROY (Chhapra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to Shri Mohan Singh ji who has touched the hearts of hon'ble members through his debate on prevailing education system in the country. It is imperative to provide education to all and sundry under the Directive Principles of the constitution. But in the prevailing scenario the situation is becoming bad to worse. Poverty and unemployment increased in our country which has affected the primary education. A poet has said "Tullata Bhola Bachpan Bikta Har Dookan Me". This is the situation of the country. The small children are not in a position to get educated hence work in shops to earn their bread. This is the situation in the country. The illiterate people fail to understand the importance of education as a result thereof severe poverty and unemployment are affecting the primary education in a big way in the country.

It is necessary in the existing situation of the country to provide a uniform primary education free of cost to everybody. Today we are celebrating 50th year of our Independence still we do not have uniformity in education. The students of villages are not getting proper education facilities. Their education is being affected. Many a members have expressed their opinion in this regard. I want to tell you about the education in Bihar's colleges. The colleges opened in Bihar after 1960 generally meant for a particular caste and community. The colleges opened in Bihar meant to educate the children belonging to the caste and community of the then Education Minister and they only used to become S.D.O, collector and engineers. at that time Laloo Prasad Yadav was not at the helm of the affairs. We were commented up on that Shri Laloo

[Shri Hira Lal Roy]

Prasad Yadav is saying this or that. At that time Laloo Prasad Yadav was not there. I want to say that this is an age old tradition. I want that the Education Minister should get it enquired whether this happened in Bihar or not.

17.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I request you to investigate the way in which the School & Colleges for a particular castes in Bihar have been opened. The condition of education was deteriorated more when the marks of the boys were increased and sub BDO & medical officers were appointed from that caste. At that time where was Laloo Yadav. At that time Laloo Yadav might have been reading in the school. There is an effort to give Bihar a bad name by making comments is not good. By this way, Bihar will not defamed but whole of country will be defamed. Why efforts are made to defame Bihar? It is the same Bihar, where Gautam Buddha was born Lord Mahavir was born where people like Rajendra Babu, Jaiprakash Narayan and Dr. Mehmood were born. In the same Bihar where from specially I hail, that is the richest part of Bihar and the maximum number of people get educated there. This place has its own reputation in the world. Therefore, there is no need to defame Bihar. Whatever the condition of education is which is not good that situation prevails not only in Bihar but also in whole of country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, just now Mohan Babu said that one student studies in convent or in an another good school. his guardian has to pay Rs. 45 or 35 thousand yearly. This abnormal condition exists in the country. I went to my relationship in neighbouring state, I saw there that some people were gathered at a place, I asked, what is the reason? I was told that Deputy Saheb has to visit this place. He was coming there because there has to be checking of a teacher in regards to education that teacher went to attend a marriage party in nearby village, his family members thought that his brother will lose the job today. He after wearing his kurta in place of his brother went to attend the job of his brother. There were only two students when deputy sahib and Master Saheb came there, they become four in number, when he asked the student that where is your teacher then that student hesitated and started running away. They could not understand at all. He asked the students why are you running, the teacher too got afraid.

There mango tree was fallen. They were running slantingly and after falling with mango-tree they ran away. This is not a condition of Bihar, there is a plot to defame Bihar, The same condition is with the whole country. I would like to say that if there is a proposal to make primary education compulsory, it must be made compulsory and it should be done speedily. Whatever matters are discussed here, I support all of them.

Just now, Prabhunath Singh was talking about Central School, he is my younger brother. He wrote that Central School should be in Chhapra, why are we quarreling with each other?

Whether it is in Chhapra or Mathura, we should compromise with each another. Same thing was said about Navodaya Vidyalaya. This Navodaya Vidyalaya was inaugurated by Shri Bommai Saheb. It comes under poor locality, there was a school in poor area. Earlier also Begal has Vidyalaya. There are more Vidyalayas in nearby locality. I do not say to increase or decrease their number but Navodaya Vidyalaya should run. To-day I know that Navodaya Vidyalaya located in Begal are not functioning well so it should be set up at another place. It was said to increase the education in Misrikh. If you emphasis over the education there, We are with you. I would like to request you, if the condition of Bihar is in a bad shape, then after giving proper emphasis, you should bring about reform the education in Bihar. (*Interruption*) It doesn't concern to you, I would like to say to you that it is not a simple matter. Today the population of country is in billions.

Our country is about to enter in a new century. Today, there is a need not to discriminate or have disparity with the younger generation. On the basis of money, the different education is imparted, there should be uniformity in it and there should be a similar syllabus. I understand that there will be a better education in this country. There is a need to do it.

With these words, I support the views of Shri Mohan Singh.

SHRI AMARPAL SINGH (Meerut): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the time for half-an-hour discussion has come.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will start Half-an-Hour Discussion at 17.42 hours.

[*Translation?*]

SHRI JOGENDRA KAWADE (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, I extend my hearty congratulations to the hon'ble member Shri Mohan Singh for introducing Constitution Amendment Bill to provide for free and compulsory education in primary schools of the country. After going through the prevailing education system in the country it is felt that the age old tradition of discrimination has not come to an end even after attaining independence. This is very unfortunate for our country. This is the country where Laxmi is worshipped as the Goddess of Wealth and Bajrang Bali i.e., Hanumanji is worshipped as God of Shakti. Ours is a country where Saraswati is worshipped as Goddess of learning. It is very peculiar situation for our country where Laxmi is worshipped as Goddess of wealth but the country is poorest in the world, where Bajrang Bali is worshipped as God of Shakti but the country is weakest in the world, where Saraswati is worshipped as Goodness of learning but the number of illiterate person in the country is maximum in the world. Today, when members of Treasury side, while participating in the debate, talked about Saraswati Vandana I was taken aback, for the people and the then existing social system which barred the Dalits and oppressed class of this country in visiting temples for paying obsequies to Gods, which barred them from having access to scriptures, Sanskrit language, are forcing them to pray Saraswati Vandana in schools. This is unbecoming for them...(*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: Will you please yield for a minute? I want to correct you on a issue...(*Interruptions*) Our religion does not permit this. Our erudite Ved Vyas was the son of a Dalit...(*Interruptions*) You are making wrong interpretation of the religion...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: You can not hide the fact about the ban imposed on Dalits and oppressed.

"Sachhai Chhup Nahin Sakti Banawat ke Usoolon se
Khusnboo Aa Nahi Sakti Kabhi Kagaj ke Phoolon Se."

I wanted to say that they are again trying to revive the ban in the name of language and God. Why they are doing it forcefully? I just wanted to refer it in the context of debate only. I do not want a lengthy discussion on this issue.

There are wide spread disparities prevailing in the present education system in the country which is very unfortunate. There are different schools for different

category of people in the society. Look at the standard of education. You can very well differentiate the standard of education being imparted village level, at Zilla Parishad level, in corporation schools in municipalities at the one side and in convent at the other. There are different kind of educational system in all those schools. In such circumstances how can there be equal level of standard of all the children of this country? How can they get an equal opportunity? Therefore, I support the bill brought by Shri Mohan Singh to end the disparities prevailing in the field of education. We have had introduced a many schemes in the field of education viz., National Literacy Mission, Operation Black Board, etc. but there is no improvement in the field of education as children who live in villages cannot afford to go to school because of poverty and when they become 6-7 years old they start extending a helping hand to their parents to make their both ends meet. Ultimately their childhood is lost in doing menial jobs which is unfortunate for our country. Children are our national assets therefore uniformity in education is must for every child. We can not talk of merit of qualification or qualities in the absence of a uniform standard of education. We have witnessed that oppressed section of this country has been denied uniform education from time immemorial and subjected to all kinds of humiliation. The system which cost shambuk his life or getting education is still prevalent in the country. I would like to inform the House that this system should be abolished. Study is compulsory but our children should develop scientific, temporal humanitarian equality, brotherhood and secular approach. There should be this type of standard of education.

There should be uniform primary education in the country. This should not happen that some children go in convent school, some in Dehradun School, some in Shimla School, some children study in Panchgani Mahabaleshwar School and others study in big Schools of Mumbai. Secondly the children who go to school in the village they face the situation that where there is building there is no roof, where there is black board there is no chalk stick, where there is chalk stick and black board there is no teacher, where there is teacher there are no students this is the situation of our education today.

Thus while supporting this bill I would like to tell you that the education system based on rich and poor discrimination should be stopped and all students should get equal opportunity whether he resides in a village or belongs to Bahujan Samaj or Dalit or tribals living in forests or mountain, he may be of any caste, any religion he should get equal opportunity for getting education. The bill introduced by Shri Mohan Singh will be supported, by me. I will not take more time and I say that the children of our country living in villages are saying:

[Prof. Jogendra Kawade]

I know. I am wandering someone may call me. I am not against light if two rays are shown to me by someone.

That ray of light has to be shown to the children who are poor, who live in villages. Who live in slums may not be deprived from the ray of hope that is Education. Thus, I support Mohan Singh's motion to include primary education in the fundamental rights. I thank Shri Mohan Singh ji and you. Jai Bhim.

17.43 hrs.

POPULATION CONTROL (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we take up Half-an-hour Discussion, there is a Bill to be introduced by Shri Satya Pal Jain.

Shri Satya Pal Jain may now move for leave to introduce his Bill.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for population control and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Banatwalla has given notice to oppose the introduction of this Bill. He is not present in the House. So, I would put it to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for measures for population control and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: I introduce the Bill

.....
 ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We may now take up the Half-an-hour Discussion.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BHISHMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, I would like to speak on the subject...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): What will happen to this bill?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This Bill will come up again on a Friday, when its turn would come. At that time, you can give your name to participate in the debate.

17.45 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Hike in Import Duty on Sugar

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall go to Item No. 21. Shri K.S. Rao.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Sir, any policy that is normally evolved or declared by a Government must always take into account the national interest. Most countries which believe in liberalisation, also take their national interest into account. Countries like the U.S.A., who speak day in and day out about liberalisation, free movement, etc. when it comes to question of affecting their national interest, they also impose anti-dumping duties to prevent certain commodities from entering into their market. A country which is mostly dependent on agriculture and agro-based industries I regret to say that the policies are anti-national, more particularly, when the concerned Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs declares that the stock of sugar that is available in the country is sufficient to take care of the needs of the country and there would not be any increase in price in the market also. I do not understand why the Finance Minister has not acted to the request of the sugar industry where around Rs. 40,000 crore of public and private money is involved. Not only their money, but as you know, 45 million sugarcane growers are dependent on the sugarcane industry and about two million workers are dependent on the sugar industry. All of them are getting affected by the policies of the Government in making duty-free import and on great pressure, accepting to levy five per cent only while the demand from the agricultural community and also the sugarcane industry of the country is to increase the duty from five per cent to 40 per cent, to save the domestic industry and the interests of the cane growers.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, Dated 18.12.98

It is understood that hon. Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs has sent a Report to the Ministry of Finance requesting for increasing the duty from five per cent to 40 per cent. Even then, the Minister of Finance has not come forward to accept the genuine demands of not only the growers but also, his colleague, the hon. Food Minister. On the other hand, I do not understand the reasons for it.

There are instances where we have brought it to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister for levying more duties on import of some spare parts to manufacture finished goods. When the Indian industrialists are prepared to import 10 per cent of the component and making 100 per cent product, the import duty is high, while the import of the total commodity comes to 100 per cent, the import duty is less. It is great anomaly. While he could do it against the interest of the nation there, possible he wants the same thing here also. With the support of some vested interests, he wanted to import sugar, by not taking care of the interests of the farmers and the nation.

These irregular policies of import and export on various occasions are affecting the nation very badly. We can understand that we may not be good in the field of weapon-making; we may not be good in the field of manufacturing aeroplane; we may not be good in the field of making big computers, where profit margin is 1000 per cent. In the field of pharmaceuticals, and formulations of drugs, foreign countries are making 1800 per cent, 100 per cent profit, while the margin in these agro-based industries in our country is very less. We do not have good R&D facilities. The industry which is flourishing in this country should not be killed. Sugar industry is one such industry. It should not be left to the whims and fancies of one hon. Minister in the Cabinet while the other hon. Minister accepts and understands the reality.

Sir, I will give some statistics in this regard. The sugar industry has been repeatedly impressing upon the Government for the last one year that around 450 sugar mills in this country will become sick if the Government does not act on this and stop the import of sugar from other countries.

Sir, as you are aware India is the largest producer of sugar and it is also the largest consumer. But it is unfortunate that we are importing sugar from Pakistan whose production is three million tonnes, whereas our production is almost 15.5 million tonnes. The sugar industry has given an assurance that, with proper policies of the Government, they can even go to the extent of exporting sugar to other countries and earn Rs. 4,000 crore per year. Now, by importing about one million tonnes

of sugar in the last one year, the country has lost Rs. 1,200 crore of foreign exchange. Everyday, the Minister is speaking about the importance of foreign exchange, foreign exchange reserves and trade deficit. While he is making a hue and cry about earning foreign exchange, I do not understand what made him to make the country lose Rs. 400 crore of foreign exchange in this regard, when there is no need for it. Are we short of progressive farmers in this country who can produce enough sugarcane and sugar in this country? We have got ample knowledge, experience and capacity to produce more. It is only because of the wrong policies of the Government that we are losing this production capacity and the farmers are getting affected.

Sir, in my own constituency where sugarcane is being produced, due to the unstable policies of the Government, the farmers are diverting from sugarcane to other crops. Now, if large number of farmers were to change from sugarcane to other crops over a period of time, then the need for import of sugar will really come and we will be losing very heavily. Instead of that, if the Government were to go into the subject in detail, understand the problems and encourage the farmers of this country, we can produce sugarcane and sugar in abundance, not only to meet our requirements but also for exporting to other countries.

Sir, I wanted to bring to the notice of my hon. colleagues and also to the hon. Speaker as to how the policy of certain Ministers is affecting the nation. In this particular case, it is very commonly known that even his colleague also is not supported by the Finance Minister. So, I want the entire House to speak in one voice and prevent import of sugar into this country, when there is capacity to produce more sugarcane and sugar here

The sugar manufacturers have said that the cost of production of sugar in this country, even with the existing irregular policies, is coming to Rs. 12 per kilogram and even after levying 10 per cent to 15 per cent duty on the imported sugar, the price would be only Rs. 14 per kilogram. It means that there would not be much saving or benefit to the consumers also in reducing the price. Then, what is the need for import of sugar at all?

Similarly, I understand that the total amount of tax that the Government is earning on sugar production is about Rs. 2000 crore. If the Government is interested, they can reduce the excise duty locally and prevent the drain on foreign exchange. Like this, we can find out several other measures to increase the production of not only sugar, but also of various other food items.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

Sir, he is the Minister of State for Food and Consumer Affairs and recently we have seen that the prices of several other essential commodities going up in the country. Are we short of farmers who can produce all these things? Why are they not producing them? They are not going so, because the minimum support price is much less, before they can go in for plantation. There will not be any incentive for the farmers to go for a particular crop and naturally they will not go for that crop. Then, the business community in the country, the exporters and importers, take advantage of the situation. They say that there is a terrible shortage of that item in the country, the prices will go up and then they will say that they have to import it. After importing, the prices will further come down and the farmers will still divert from that crop. Suppose the Government were to decide the reasonable support price to the farmer. Every agro-product that is required for this nation and the people can be produced at a cheaper rate in this country as compared to the other countries. On many an occasion, we find that the farmer is getting very poor price. But when the product goes out of his hands into the hands of the commission agents or the traders, the price will shoot up. This anomaly has to be rectified by all of us. So, giving an increased price to the farmer will not affect the consumer. But this irregular policy of the Government for import and export or lack of minimum support price is affecting this industry. The hon. Minister has already supported this cause. More than the hon. Minister, I request the hon. Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister and also the entire House to realise how the nation is being affected by its wrong policy. All of us must unanimously support to prevent the sugar from other countries and pay a right price to the farmer—the cane-grower and the sugar mill industry. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As per rules, two more hon. Members can ask questions. Now, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey can ask one question.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two-three things have come out from what hon. Raoji has said and I would like to ask the hon. Minister only two questions in this regard. The present stock of sugar is quite sufficient. As per an estimate there is to be a huge production of sugar in future and as per the Government's calculation there will be no need to import sugar. In such a situation the import of sugar can be stopped by levying it. My question is why do we need to import sugar? The Government often talks of importing sugar which leads to artificial

crisis of sugar in the country. However, sugar is imported only after calculating the over all situation. Through you, I would like to drive home one point in the mind of hon. Minister. Earlier, sugar was imported through NAFED. It was low price deal which was later on increased. The ship which was due to come from America actually went to another place which led to the escalation in the price of sugar and it rose up to 400 dollars per ton. Due to this also sugar became costlier. This is also known as sugar scam, which led to a loss of 28.75 lakh dollars of foreign exchange. So, I would like to request the Government not to let such a situation take place and I would also like to know the steps to be taken by the Government to contain the situation of artificial crisis of sugar. The hon. Minister should also let us know as to what is the maximum limit of sugar stock.

I would also like to point out that at present farmers are getting minimum price for their produce. They should get proper price for their produce. I would like to ask one thing more crores of rupees of sugar cane growers are outstanding against different Mills. Mills are quite old and there are proposals to modernise them. It has been clearly stated in the Annual Report 1997-98 of the Ministry of Agriculture that three Co-operative Mills were provided loans during 1996-97 from the Sugar Development Fund of Food Corporation of India for modernisation and expansion programme. Even then modernisation and expansion works have not been taken up. The installed capacity of our old Sugar Mills is insufficient. In this regard they need to be improved.

I would like to say one thing about payment. Farmers should get timely payment of sugarcane. Sugarcane Act is there and there is also a Sugarcane Control order which provide payment to farmers within 15 days. Otherwise, payment is made to them alongwith interest. But, there are several Sugar Mills that have not made payment as yet. I want that the Government should arrange to make payment to them alongwith interest and the Government should also take steps to increase production. Government Co-operatives exist in many places and there is also a cane Council. There is much expenditure on the programmes which aim at increasing the production of sugarcane, but the sugarcane production is not increasing. This is also resulting into closure of Sugar Mills and thousands of workers are rendered jobless. The Government should ensure that Sugar Mills are not closed, they get economic assistance and farmers get sufficient amount. The Government should reconsider about the import of sugar and efforts should be made to check scams.

18.00 hrs.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at first I say to you thanks. Half an hour discussion has been started only ten minutes before and I have to ask three question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask all the three question in the form of one question.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Sir, it's alright. Our country was exporting sugar in 1991-92. Farmers produced sufficient amount of sugar-cane but they had to suffer economic loss. They had to burn sugarcanes in the fields itself which resulted into fall in sugar-cane production. During the year 1994-95 there was less production in sugar which led to the crisis of sugarcane in the country. Sugar was sold at the cost of Rs 20 to Rs. 25 per k.g. During 1994-95 sugar had to be imported and the country had to bear a loss.

Sir, Hon. Minister had replied that there was huge production of onion, but it was rotten into the field itself. That is why onion became costlier. Similarly, potato also became costlier because during 1996-97 it was rotten. Farmers had to suffer huge losses. Now, I fail to understand why it is being imported. As on 10th of October stock of sugar was 54 lakh tonnes and as per an estimate the production of sugar is to be 100 lakh tonnes. The annual consumption of sugar is 143 lakh tonnes. So import of sugar should be banned immediately. Even in W.T.O. Import duty upto 150 per cent can be imposed, 50 percent import duty should be imposed immediately. In Uttar Pradesh selling price of sugarcane of Rs. 10 less in comparison to Punjab and Haryana per quintal less while recovery of mills is more than Punjab and Haryana. I would like to know from hon. Minister that what measures he will take up? Whether he will write to Government of Uttar Pradesh or will issue some orders to solve the problems of sugarcane growers of U.P. or will he leave the sugarcane growers on the mercy of exploiters. There is shortage of power in the country...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I told you earlier to ask only one question.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: I am asking only one question. Sir, there is shortage of power in whole world and Sugar industry have huge capacity to generate electricity. The Sugar Mills with a crushing capacity of 25,000 quintal sugarcane per day in the world are generating 25 MW electricity per day by using sugarmills bagasse by installing ultramodern and high pressure boiler.

In our country there are sugar mills which are crushing one lac sugarcane can generate 100 MW electricity per day. They can generate 50000 MW electricity. Whether Government will extend some concessions for generating power? Thank you.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also given my names...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Where were you when I called your names? You do not have the right now but still I am giving you a chance to put only one question.

[*Translation*]

A speech can not be delivered in half-an-hour discussion. Rule is very clear regarding this. There use to be two hon. Member's name in the question which is asked after statement.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I would like to thank you as you gave me opportunity to ask about sugar. I would like to ask from Hon. Minister that the sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are in a very bad shape at present. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Shri Kalyan Singh has also written a letter to Government of India in this regard that sugar should not be imported. About Rs. 200 crore is due to be paid to the sugarcane growers for the last year. Whether Hon. Minister would take any effective measure in this regards so that the farmers can be benefited and farmers may get reasonable price.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let me tell you that as per the rule concerning the Half-an-Hour discussion, only three hon. Members can put questions. As a special case I am allowing you to ask one single question. So, only three hon. Members may put only one short question each. Then the hon. Minister will reply. This will not be treated as a precedent hereafter.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is very crucial question which is affecting the sugarcane industry and the sugarcane farmers.

The hon. Minister, Shri Madan Lal Khurana has just come here. The Prime Minister had made a statement in this House on this subject. Shri Khurana will remember

[Shri Prithviraj D. Chavan]

that he also had made a statement that the Government was considering the question of increasing the import duty on sugar. On December 3, 1998 he said that the Government would consider it within two or three days. The hon. Prime Minister also had said that he was seriously considering it. What is the hitch?

There is an allegation that some very high people are importing sugar from Pakistan and just to allow them to import, the import duty is not being raised.

I want a categorical assurance from the Government about the decision taken by the Government. Are they going to increase the import duty from five per cent to 50 per cent or not?

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Statement made by Prime Minister over the Radio & T.V. that Government will not import sugar. While taking into consideration the statement of Prime Minister, Shri Khurana said in the Parliament that after two-three days the import of sugar will be stopped. Commerce Minister Shri Ram Krishna Hegde said that now sugar will not be imported. Food Minister Shri Barnala said if the import of the sugar is made then 40% custom-duty will be imposed over it. But today huge amount of sugar is being imported. According to the data of agriculture Ministry, there will be a 150 lakh tonnes sugar production, and 54 lakh tonnes we are already holding, when we have 205 lakh tonnes sugar there is a total demand for sugar is 150 lakh tonnes, then why Government is trying to ruin the sugar industry of India by importing the sugar.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Today, the sugar industries are in a bad state. Earlier sugar mills had to take licence, but this Government has delicensed the sugar mills, where there was a licensing system, licence were given to the sugar industries for two years but they didn't establish the sugar industries and now they have delicensed it. Whether this would be in the interest of sugarcane farmers that rebate should be given, because we have been told that where licence-issue is there and if licence holder will refuse, new sugar industry shall not be installed and they are not refusing, the result is this that farmers are facing difficulties, new sugar mills have not been established. I am asking this specific question that whether those who had got licence for two-three years ago for selling, will you cancel the licence of those fraud people so that genuine people can install new sugar mills.

[English]

SHRI K. PALANISAMI (Tiruchengode): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for giving me an opportunity. In Tamilnadu this is the only profitable crop. I want to know what is the necessity for the Government to import sugar when we are having sufficient stocks here.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The State of Kerala is a consumer State cent per cent in the matter of sugar and sugarcane.

Previously, the Central Government had released the quota of sugar for being distributed through the ration shops as well as through fair price shops. Now, after delicensing, the situation has changed and both the Central Government and the FCI are not supplying sugar. There is an acute shortage of sugar supply in the ration shops. So, the Central Government may be pleased to retain this supply of sugar as before so that it could be sold to the common man through the ration shops. We have a very efficient public distribution system and that system is now in a dangerous situation or in a very difficult situation for we do not have sufficient supply of sugar from the Central Pool. I, therefore, request the hon. Food Minister to have the supply continued as it was done previously.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): Just now our hon. friend from Kerala has raised the issue that there is shortage of sugar for public distribution system. It seems to be due to some problem of management because last year there was a surplus stock by 45 per cent. This year, the normal production will be much more than what is required for this country. With this background, there should not be any problem for any public distribution shop or any fair price shop. There was some management problem. I think the Government has to take some initiative to resolve this problem.

Secondly, the most important thing is that about more than 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has already been imported and as per our information, there is an agreement for import of further 19 lakh tonnes of sugar. This will destroy the entire farming community who are associated with the sugar crops. I think this is high time that the Government should take some bold decision. There were series of meetings at the highest level, at Prime Minister's level, at Agriculture Minister's level and at Food Minister's level. But I cannot understand what exactly is happening. This is high time that the Government should put heavy duty, stop this import, and try to protect the local farmers.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issues raised by Hon'ble leader of opposition and other hon'ble Members regarding the sugar industry are very relevant because it is an agro-based industry. In this, as our hon'ble member said in the very beginning that it is a question of two million labourers and in addition to that farmers have enough problems, that should be resolved, two-three issues are raised today, one issue was that the levy of five percent may be increased and there was a demand that it should be increased. Third issue raised was that farmers get the price of sugarcane at varied rates some where it is less and somewhere it is more. It was said that it is higher in Punjab and Haryana while it is lesser in Uttar Pradesh. It was said that there is no unanimity in the price of sugarcane and it should be there. I would like to reply in brief about each of them.

First thing is that whatever is the outstanding this year, I am to say about the outstanding that if we see the previous record, we will find that in 1995-96 there was an outstanding of Rs. 625.88 crores which is 6.9 percent. In the year 1996-97 there was an outstanding of Rs. 389.4 crores that comes to 5.34% and this year in 1998-99 there is only 130.89 crores outstanding that has been 5.63% of the total payment. We are of the opinion that this year the outstanding amount is the minimum one and regarding the outstanding the Ministry has categorically written to all the Chief Ministers to make the payment at the earliest.

[*English*]

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Kairana): Sir, I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should quote the rule. Under what rule you are raising the point of order?

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA (Kairana): I do not know.

[*Translation*]

My submission is concerned to that what hon'ble minister is saying.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order. You are a senior Member. Why are you raising a point of order when there is no point of order?

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA: Hon'ble Minister should only say that whatever is kept outstanding according to the Government's rule, why he is not giving the interest of 15 percent. Would you pay the interest?

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, the issue of payment of sugarcane farmers falls in the jurisdiction of the States. It is not in our jurisdiction to make them payment, we have written to every Chief Minister to make payment of the outstanding amount to farmers as soon as possible. The payment of sugarcane farmers is the responsibility of State Governments.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, regarding outstanding amount whatever question was raised, it is under the jurisdiction of Central Sugarcane Act and interest is neither given by the State Government nor Mill owners, why act is not being implemented, why don't you get implemented this act. If they are given late payment, they should be given interest.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, that question was raised by Shri Pandey ji why interest is not given on the outstanding amount, I would like to say that since it is given by State Governments, where I wrote that they should get the payment at the earliest, in the same way we will request to State Governments that Central Government act should be implemented.

Secondly, you have told that in every State, prices are differing. In Uttar Pradesh, price are Rs. 80 to 82, in Punjab and Haryana it is Rs. 90 to 95 and in other States prices are different. Central Government decides minimum support price and we decide MSP for Rs. 52.70.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is very low.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV: Yes, every State Government increased this after adding support price in it as in Uttar Pradesh it is Rs. 82 instead of Rs. 80. So far as Punjab and Haryana are concerned we collected information from the States in this regard, that sugarcane production in the State is lower than the crushing capacity in the sugar mills in the State. The Government has provided incentives there, Government is giving Rs. 90-95 for motivating the sugarcane farmers, so that the production of sugarcane can't increase. Every State

[Shri Satyapal Singh: Yadav]

Government has such type of right, that they increased the production of sugarcane and State can decide the price of sugarcane as per their terms and expenditure. This is the duty of every State.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, then the question of import arises and in this regard hon. Leader of Opposition had met hon. Prime Minister and I think that representatives of N.S.C.E. also accompanied him. I and Barnala Saheb were also present when hon. Leader of Opposition had gone to meet Prime Minister. His contention was that import duties in other countries are higher in comparison to ours and it is more than five percent. But import duty is less in our country and as a result huge quantity of Sugar is being imported in our country and it's mainly coming from Pakistan. I would like to say that this year about the import of sugar that 6,96,175 lakh tonnes of sugar were imported by October, 1997. Now the question of November and December arises. You wanted to say in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMARPAL SINGH: Whether your data are not true?

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: Data are not false, I am having these data. 84,433 tonnes and 49139 tonnes of sugar were imported in October and November respectively. Members of Council of Minister have remarked that our import will be less. I would like to say him that you can see in October 84,433 tonnes of sugar was imported while in November it reduced to only 49,139 tonnes. So far as import is concerned, Our import duty is less in this regard. Hon. Prime Minister has also accepted that it is under process and its report is already in the hands of C.C.P....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: How long this process will continue?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: Barnala Saheb has sent a note to C.P.P. suggesting increase in import duty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have held talks with Prime Minister today morning itself. The Government is, as our hon. Minister Khuranaji has told in this regard, considering on it very seriously. It is true that import duty should be raised. I would like to inform you that import constitutes only 5-6 percent of total consumption. Accept that it was imported from Pakistan. I accept it also that Pakistan is giving subsidy on sugar. Hence the volume of imported sugar is not so large that it can affect our financial condition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, new year 1999 is approaching and I hope for good production of sugarcane this year. Five percent or more levy should be imposed on sugar. We are talking about it. I would like to tell you that theoretically Government is agreed on that and this problem will be solved shortly.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: When would it be done?

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: It would be done this year, very soon...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: What is the percentage of levy you have recommended to raise?

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: I have recommended for 40 percent.

Hon. Member everyone is concerned about sugar industry. The Government is also concerned and we don't want that dumping may take place in our country. But question of dumping here does not arise because dumping takes place only when sale price lowers to cost of production of price of sugar is stagnating in whole country. It's price is constant. It has not come down. Instead, it has raised a little. Hence there is no question of dumping. Dumping may have taken place in case the price of sugar would have come down in our country but price of sugar has not come down in our country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, as Radhakrishna ji has told that supply of sugar does not reach Kerala in time which results in difficulty. I would like to inform him that we have no shortage of sugar. We will remove the problems of transportation of sugar.

[English]

I have taken note of it, and I will see.

[Translation]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Hon. Minister. You should know that Pakistan is giving subsidy of four rupees fifty paise per kilo, why? This is for nothing but dumping.

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: I want to inform you that dumping is not taking place in our country. When the price of sugar will go down then we can say that dumping is taking place. All the data regarding sugar are

available with you and we have also these data. You know that price of sugar is stagnant. The delay in the transportation of sugar is the handiwork of some people who have reaped benefit out of creating artificial short supply of potato and onion. Again they want to grind their own axe in the case of sugar but they will not be allowed to succeed in their gameplan.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask two things from the hon. Minister. Instructions have been given for making payment of sugarcane to the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh within 15 days.

There is a provision in the order to file criminal case against the mill owners if they do not make payment in time. There is a need to issue instructions to the state Government in this regard so that the farmers could get the price of their produce at the earliest. Secondly so far as import is concerned.

[*English*]

In fact, as per our information, the Food Minister has written to the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister but I myself got a letter from the Finance Minister who has said that it is not possible to accept this suggestion. We are not for increasing the duty and we are not worried about this. That type of a reply has been given to me by the Finance Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: We recommended 40 percent import duty but they opposed it. They do not want 40 percent increase. They have different opinion in this regard. But a final decision is yet to be taken in this regard and a collective decision will be acceptable to all.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: A country like the USA is giving 140 per cent import duty on sugar.

USA is levying 140 per cent import duty on sugar. Why should we not? What is the difficulty?

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: Not only in USA, but I can say in many other countries, the import duty is very much higher and it is only in India that it is five per cent. Before 1994, there was zero per cent import duty. Now it is five per cent. We are thinking of increasing import duty. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Why are you protecting Pakistan import of 36 per cent? Who is interested in importing from Pakistan?

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: Government of India is not importing at all.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Who are the private traders who are importing it?

[*Translation*]

You please tell me that who is importing it?...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question was that whether the Government of India would give incentives to those sugar mills which want to generate power?...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already replied.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Relatives of influential persons are involved in it. You should tell that whose relative they are?...(*Interruptions*)

He is talking about 40 percent duty on the sugar produced by the Pakistani mills...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): I have already said that it is not only the question of Pakistan and U.S.A. Import duty is very much higher in every country of the world. It is only five percent in our country.

[*English*]

Not only Pakistan, but many other countries are exporting sugar to India.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Other countries are protecting their farmers. We are not doing it.

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: We are also protecting our farmers by increasing the import duty. We are going to import it.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: My question was whether the Government of India would give any concession to those sugar industries which will generate 25 megawatt power everyday?

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV: No such idea is under consideration. If the hon. Member give his proposal in writing it will be taken for consideration.

18.28 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (RAILWAYS)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1998-99 for which two hours have been allotted for discussion and voting.

Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 2 and 16."

Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1998-99 submitted to the vote of the House

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the vote of the House
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	1,000
16.	Assets—Acquisition, Construction and Replacement	
	<i>Other Expenditure</i>	
	Capital	4,000
	Railway Funds	25,000
	Total	30,000

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL (Nasik): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, through you I want to say to the Minister of Railways that people in my constituency has been demanding to start a new train from Nasik to Mumbai for the last 15 years, but nothing has been done in this regard. This is my submission to the hon'ble Minister of Railways that a new train should be started from Nasik to Mumbai as soon as possible. Alongwith it the local

train that starts from Mumbai should be extended to the Igatpuri and Geetanjali Express should be extended from Mumbai to Nasik. I think Minister of Railways will pay attention on these demands.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Minister of Railways for he has fulfilled our long pending demand. This demands for grants includes an over-head-bridge at Chaupla in Bareilly. Through you I want to know from the Minister

of Railways that after this session when he is going to lay the foundation stone of the bridge at Bareilly. He is requested to fix the date and time.

We had demanded for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express. He has conceded for a Rajdhani via Bareilly-Lucknow, but it is yet to be seen how beneficial it proves. Last time I had made a demand, perhaps hon'ble Minister will accept it this time as he is doing superb work. Ours demand was to run a Shatabdi Express from Delhi to Lucknow via Bareilly, as Bareilly and Moradabad are very important towns. Goods are exported from these towns and foreign traders make frequent visits there. As there aren't good hotels in Bareilly and Moradabad, they find it uncomfortable to stay there, so they want to come back Delhi in the night after doing their day work in these towns. That's why it is urgently required to run a Shatabdi Express on that route. I and one of my colleagues Shri Santosh Gangwar, who is a minister now, had been repeatedly requesting you for the same.

You have very well announced in Railway Budget that there will be no use of plastics in Railways any more. But I am sorry to state that even today the bed rolls on railways are packed in plastic bags, and plastic glasses are yet in use there. Plastic is excessively used in railways. I think Railway Board did not obey this order of the Minister of Railways. I hope Minister of Railways will pay attention towards it.

Kachhla Bridge is an old bridge over the river Ganga. The broad gauge conversion work is going on there. Kachhla bridge is such a bridge which caters to railway traffic as well as road traffic. A notice has been served in this regard. As yet there isn't any road route, it may create a great problem. I want to say to the Minister of Railways that he should talk to the Government of Uttar Pradesh before taking in hand the repairing work of that bridge, as it is the only link road for Agra and Nainital, and if it is closed, it may invite great trouble...*(Interruptions)*

Bareilly Junction is a very big station. From the Platform number two of this station trains leave for Delhi. At this platform there are long racks but no roofs which causes problem during rainy season. Although platform number one has been covered with roof. The same should be done at the platform number two and other necessary facilities should be provided there...*(Interruptions)* You are stopping me to speak. Two hours time has been allotted for my party. You should give me some weightage...*(Interruptions)* Minister will say like that, but this House will not be run according to the wishes of the Minister. This will be run according to your rulings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is my ruling.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: There is a passenger train between Bareilly and Chandousi. It has only two or three boggies. Because of the lack of the roadways between these places there is lot of rush in this train. So I want some more boggies should be attached in this train. Passengers sit on the roofs of the boggies as well as on the joints of the engine and boggies. This increases the possibility of accidents. So two or three extra coaches should be provided in that train.

Ram Nagar is a famous holy place for the followers of Jainism. Thousands of thousands of Jains visit this place daily. People willing to visit Ram Nagar have to get down at the station of Rewati-Bara-Khera. Five years ago it was decided that the height of the platform of the Rewati-Bara-Khera will be raised. But for the reasons unknown to us this matter is hanging fire. Money has been sanctioned for the same, everything has been done but yet its construction has not started. It should be done.

There is another railway station Chaneti near the railway station of Bareilly. Here many types of goods are brought and unloaded. Here the siding of coal is done, cement and racks are unloaded, but there is no arrangement for anything. Chaneti railway station falls in cantt. area. There should be some sitting arrangement for labourers and traders who come Chaneti. Chaneti railway station should be upgraded. Some trains should also be halted there so that it could lighten some burden of Bareilly Junction.

In North East Railway there are two stations Ghatpuri and Makarandpuri between the cities of Bareilly and Badoun. Between Ghatpuri and Makarandpuri there is a village called Usta. There is no railway crossing at all. On both sides there are roads. So I request the Minister of Railways that Railways should not bring forth some legal barriers in the construction of a level crossing there. I request him to construct a level crossing there. Farmers of this area are facing a lot of trouble. Many people have written me for that and I have sent those letters to the Minister of Railways. In last, I would like to make one more demand which is a very old one. Last time, a survey was conducted for a new railway line from Chandausi to Farrukhabad. For Farrukhabad this line should pass through Chandausi, Bisauli, Vazirganj and Dataganj. There will be a double benefit of it. First, this will reduce rush on the main line. The rush will be reduced as we go via Kanpur or via Bareilly Lucknow. There will be a third line in that Sector. There are several incidents of derailments and the track is blocked for as long as eight days. So, traffic will become smooth if a

[Shri Rajveer Singh]

loop line or particularly a metre gauge is constructed there.

Now, I conclude my speech since you are not allowing me to speak any further. Thanks.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasad Singh Ji, You wanted to ask a question.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Yes, Sir, I would be very brief. When the concept of democracy was unknown to the world, democracy was prevalent in Vaishali. The Licchvi Republic was in existence there 3000 years ago. The hon. Minister had also given an assurance in the House to provide a circuit line connecting Buddhist Spots. There were some advertisements as well in this regard. Vaishali where democracy had its root was the Karmbhoomi of lord Buddha. The urn of lord Buddha was also found there in excavation. This is a historic place. This is also the birth place of lord Mahavir. Vaishali is a historical place where Railway lines are situated at a distance of 40-50 Kms. from this place. There is a railway line from Hajipur which passes through Lalganj, Sarai, Deoria, Sahebganj, Kesharia and goes to Areraj. Areraj is also a very important place. There is another railway line between Hajipur and Sagauli. I would like to remind the hon. Minister that the former Minister Shri Ramvilas Paswanji had initiated the survey-work on 17th February 1997 on the birth anniversary of Karpoori Thakurji. The survey has already been completed. In reply to my question he has stated that the survey work is over. Rs. 150 crore is likely to be incurred on railway line between Hajipur and Sugauli. We have been demanding for this rail line since 1904. We request you to fulfil this. The hon. President has visited that place several times. The hon. Minister of Railways, several former ministers also visited that place. They were all of the opinion that the rail line should be constructed here. This will complete the Buddhist circuit. It is essential to connect this place with railway. The survey work is over. Hon. Minister has visited that place a number of times and who is well aware of everything of that place and has already announced there that work will start there soon. Now two years have passed since then. The survey work is over. Foundation has been laid. People are now sceptical whether the foundation laying was real or fake. He should now make a provision in the Budget this year and should also announce the date of foundation laying ceremony since this is a historical place. Connecting it with railway will be a historic work. We will thank you for that. Otherwise we will think that foundation laying was a fake one. The foundation of Patna bridge was laid by the hon. Prime Minister during the tenure of the former Minister. There was a gathering of one lakh persons and all the big shots of Bihar were

present there. The foundation was laid to construct a Rail bridge over the Ganga from Patna...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: You were also a minister at that time.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That is why I am telling you the real facts. Had I not been a minister how could have I told the truth.

Now I am concluding. The foundation was laid there but Nitishji says that it was a fake foundation as the foundation laid was for survey and not for bridge. People say as to why the construction work has not been started though the foundation was laid long ago. He says that survey work will take time. How much time will be taken in the survey work? whether work is started or survey is conducted after laying of foundation? You should start the work immediately such is the situation in Bihar. There is an uproar throughout the country that since Paswanji and Nitishji are both from Bihar so all the developmental works are taking place in Bihar only. The share of entire country is being diverted to Bihar. But the fact is that nothing is being done in Bihar.

We are being blamed unnecessarily. There is a saying that he who hunts two hare leaves one and loses the other and this is the situation of Bihar. When the construction work of rail track between Hajipur to Sugauli would be taken up. You should make a provision in the Budget in this regard it can be done through O.C.F. also. Buddhists from all over the world come here. Thousands of people come from Japan. Scores of tourist-buses ply here. This is a densely populated area and people here are in need of a rail line. You can also check its viability. Therefore the Minister of Railways should fulfil both the demands. We want to know as to when the foundation will be laid, when the Budget will be placed and when the work will begin. If the work is done we will appreciate the Rail Minister for his work. We shall accept Minister as an efficient and working one if those two items of work are done. Otherwise to avoid the wrath of public we will put blame on him that these works could not be done due to the hon. Minister.

It will be better if Rajdhani Express passes through Muzaffarpur-Samastipur. It is the demand of the people that Rajdhani Express should go via Muzaffarpur-Samastipur. It may take some more time, but it will be convenient for the people. A large number of people from Bihar live in Faridabad. Their demand is that one Superfast train should be introduced between Delhi and

Patna via Faridabad. I request that this demand of the people may kindly be fulfilled.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the number of Members in the Treasury benches is small. It shows their lack of interest in getting these Demands passed. Though we are sitting in the Opposition, we are helping them to get the Demands for Grants of the Railways passed. I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to kindly listen to me and note down one or two points which I am going to place before him.

In our country, gauge conversion on a number of routes is going on. Metre-gauge is converted into broad-gauge with huge investments. This is a most welcome move. Wherever gauge conversion has taken place, it has helped those areas to join the national map. The economy in those areas is also improving.

Sir, the Railways are not taking care of the passenger amenities wherever they go in for gauge conversion. Platforms are very low wherever we have metro-gauge lines. They are called low-level platforms. When the metre-gauge is converted into broad-gauge, it goes without saying and it goes without any demand from any quarter that the level of the platform should also be raised to a high level. For carrying out this work, sufficient Budgetary provision is necessary. Most unfortunately, in Andhra Pradesh, I have seen that on a number of routes, age-old low level platforms are continuing. The Railways are not taking sufficient interest to raise the level of those low-level platforms. For instance, I will submit to the hon. Railway Minister that there is a route from Guntur to Guntakal via Nandyal.

Actually, the stations are also decades-old and no renovation work has been taken up in many stations. The platforms are very low and a number of accidents are taking place. The villagers who travel in train are, really, not aware of the compensation that they can claim whenever an accident takes place and due to the negligence of the Railways, they are suffering. I would request and Minister of Railways to pay special attention and see that the platforms are raised. Then, lighting arrangements in the stations also have to be improved.

Sir, I will give a classic example of the negligence of the Railways. There is a railway station called Tonakonda in Vijayawada Division. When metre gauge trains were running on that line, there was a foot overbridge connecting the two platforms there. When the line was

converted into broad gauge, the railway authorities said that they would reconstruct that bridge after gauge conversion and they had removed it. Now, even after three years, that foot overbridge has not been reconstructed. I made several representations to the railway authorities, including the Minister of Railways. I met the railway officials. They are pleading their inability to reconstruct it because of the non-availability of funds. It is most unfortunate and also unfair that an existing facility was removed at the time of gauge conversion. After all, the people of that area are demanding the reconstruction of that foot overbridge for them. I think, the Minister will kindly look into this matter also.

Sir, apart from other things in the Budget, the allocation for passenger amenities needs to be increased. The allocation for passenger amenities is very negligible. The Railway Budget is increasing multifold, but the allocation for passenger amenities like improvement of stations, platforms, lighting arrangements, supply of protected water, cover over platforms etc. need some money, and proportionate increase in the Railway Budget for these things is lacking. So, I appeal to the Minister to bear this important aspect in mind for the benefit of the travelling public and look after their welfare.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr., Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on supplementary Demands for Grants (Railway). I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to some of the problems of my constituency and I would also like to give some suggestions. The newly created district Kaushambi falls under my constituency. As Raghuvansh Prasad Ji has just said, Kaushambi is the capital of Ujjain and it is also a Buddhist place. People from China and Japan and from other parts of the world visit this place. This is also a pilgrimage of Jains. I had made a demand when the Rail Budget was presented, the hon. Minister would remember that sometime back I met him in his chamber and had informed him that there was a train named Mahananda Express which used to halt for one minute each at Khaga, Sirathu and Bharwan Stations which was convenient for daily passengers connecting Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It was convenient for passengers, but the above stoppages of that train have been withdrawn which is causing inconvenience to daily passengers and to the passengers coming from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I will not go into details. I would simply request that the stoppage of the Mahananda Express at Bharwari, Sirathu and Khaga stations for one

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

minute each should be restored because foreign tourists visits this place and also because both Bihar as well as Kaushambi are places of Buddhist importance. This will be very convenient for foreign tourists.

I would also like to say about the Shatabdi Express. Allahabad has been a place of historical importance ever since the struggle for freedom started. We achieved the independence fifty years ago. The freedom struggle was fought from Anand Bhavan and Swaraj Bhavan. You have introduced Shatabdi Express from a number of places in the country but not from Allahabad. The people of Allahabad have a long pending demand for introduction of Shatabdi Express between Delhi and Allahabad. I had made this demand earlier also and many of my colleagues have also made the similar demand.

Another point which I want to raise is regarding connecting Kaushambi district with rail line. There is a railway crossing here where traffic is held up for hours together. This causes great difficulties to foreign tourists as well as to other people. My submission is that an overbridge be constructed at Bharwari. Moreover it will also be convenient if another overbridge is constructed at Mandar.

Sir, I would like to raise one more point. 11-up Sealdah Express passes through Bihar. We boarded this train at Etawah Station. Two MPs were already travelling in the first class compartment since there was no glasses in the window of the compartment, cold wind was coming inside and we were severing from cold. So, I would like to request that atleast window of first class compartments should be in good condition so that passengers do not face inconvenience.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, you have to conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri shailendra Kumar, Look towards this side.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR: While concluding I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants presented by the Minister of Railways and I hope my demands will be fulfilled.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two points only in the Supplementary Demands for Grants. So you should not talk out of place. This is not a General Budget.

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR: Sir, other hon. members have also put their demands.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to confine yourself on two points only. We are considering it to pass today.

SHRI SHAIENDRA KUMAR: I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak. I want to co-operate with you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to remind you that this is a supplementary Demands for Grants. You should confine yourself on two points, otherwise this will not be passed today.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think, the Railways is a miniature form of India. It is a symbol of national integrity. The Railways connect the entire India, that is, from North to South and from East to West. The passengers in the bogies or the compartments of a particular train are from different regions and speak different languages. They represent different culture and creed. They are travelling in the same train. I hope, the demands presented before the Minister of Railways for improvement of the railway facilities will be agreed to. No doubt these are modest demands but these are also just demands. It is not possible on the part of the Minister of Railways or anybody else to fulfil all the demands due to inadequacy of funds. So, I urge upon the Minister of Finance to allocate more funds. I think, cutting across the party lines, all of us should make a demand before the Government of India for more budgetary support for the Railways.

Let me draw the attention of this House, through you, to another aspect. Every day, we read in the morning newspapers about more and more train accidents taking place, and the hon. Minister of Railways or the Minister of State for Railways or the Chairman, Railway Board rushing to the spots. They set up inquiry commissions to be headed by some persons. The Minister of Railways makes a statement before the Press that they are rushing medical aid, etc., etc.

A railway accident may happen due to a technical fault or it may be a man-made fault. There are so many reasons. I urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to look into the matter seriously because our signalling system is of very low standard. The signalling system should be improved. The tracks on which our trains are moving are very old as most of the tracks had been laid by the Britishers and after independence practically very few tracks have been laid. The Railways have been using the same old tracks. So, I urge upon the Railway Minister to look into this matter seriously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Railway Minister

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have not spoken...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, then let him complete first.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Lastly, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to my area. In my area mostly the Dalits and downtrodden people are living. It is quite far from Calcutta City. Last year, the hon. Railway Minister was kind enough to sanction a sum of Rs. 1 crore for the electrification of Basirhat Section under Sealdah Division of the Eastern Railway.

I would urge upon the Railway Minister to give a budgetary support for the remaining money.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to put a fullstop now.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I am completing.

Sir, I urge upon the Railway Minister to sanction more money for the completion of the electrification of this Section under Sealdah Division. The Hon. Minister has already sanctioned Rs. 1 crore for that project.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI C. GOPAL (Arakkonam): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am very much grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the problems relating to my constituency and I am expecting that he would do something in this regard.

Sir, Arakkonam is the main junction and it is situated in between Katpadi, Coimbatore, Chengalpeta, Tirupati and Chennai. Arakkonam is a major town and is having a population of more than five lakhs. Through Arakkonam Railway junction daily more than two lakh people travel from different parts of the country. There has been a demand for quite a long time for operating electric trains which should run between Arakkonam and Katpadi, and Arakkonam and Tirupati. I have met the hon. Railway Minister several times and given him the papers also in this regard. The EMU trains are very much necessary on that route.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to sanction electric trains from Arakkonam to Tirupati and Arakkonam to Katpadi and fulfil the demands of lakhs of people of that area. It has become necessary to allot EMU trains to the Southern region immediately.

19.00 hrs.

Also I request the hon. Minister that the superfast train should be stopped at Arakkonam because I have already stated that daily two lakhs of people are travelling. Even though there are trains, they feel it insufficient. Therefore, for the convenience of the public, it is necessary that Brindavan Express, Cheran Express and Chennai-Mumbai Express should be stopped at Arakkonam railway station for at least two minutes.

Also Mysore-Tirupati fast passenger train must be allowed to run via Arakkonam junction instead of bypassing Arakkonam.

There is also a connecting train running between Arakkonam and Katpadi and that train starts from Arakkonam at about 6.15 a.m. and reaches Katpadi at 8 a.m. So, from 8 a.m. to 5.15 p.m. it is halting in that place. Therefore, I am requesting the hon. Minister to operate—I am not asking for a new train—that train in between time and to solve the problems of more than two lakh people.

[Shri C. Gopal]

There is also an inter-State Express which was running in between Chennai and Tirupati as a fast passenger train and now it turned into an Express train. Also the train fare has been enhanced. Therefore, the public find it inconvenient and the poor people are also suffering a lot. Therefore, that train may be converted into a fast passenger train again.

On behalf of my party, I am supporting the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways).

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, last year the hon. Railway Minister allotted Rs. 4 crore for Thanjavur-Nagore broad-gauge conversion but it had been diverted into some other project. I urge upon the hon. Minister to allot some funds because this is a long pending conversion.

For Thanjavur-Vilupuram broad-gauge conversion, they announced that they are going to allot Rs. 85 crore in the main Budget. But, later in the House we have been demanding that full funds should be allotted; otherwise, the project could not be included in the Budget. At that time, the hon. Minister assured that he would allot Rs. 85 crore and start the work this year. But we came to know that so far the permission from the Planning Commission has not been received. I would request the hon. Minister to get the permission from the Planning Commission and speed up the work.

Day before yesterday, our hon. Minister gave a reply that in the Ninth Five Year Plan we need 1,65,000 wagons but the Wagon India Limited produce only 29,000 wagons per year. We are in need of 4,000 wagons per year. The very old, Golden Track Workshop in Trichy may be upgraded as a wagon producing workshop. The well experienced employees and vast area are available in the workshop.

We need a new DMU train between Thanjavur and Tiruchi where we have already got the broad-gauge line. But so far we are not getting more trains.

I request the hon. Minister to introduce express trains to Coimbatore with first class and AC facilities.

More than a century old Rameshwaram Express, which is running between Chennai and Rameshwaram, was renamed as 'Sethu Express'. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly restore its old name, which is a prestigious name.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards the broad gauge line under construction from Bagah to Gorakhpur via Chhitauni and from Kaptanganj to Siwan. There will be great difficulty as there is no broad gauge line from Kaptanganj to Siwan. I had written a letter to the hon. Minister of Railways in this regard and requested him to specify the time by when it is likely to be completed and whether it would be constructed or not. In his letter dated 13th July, 1998 the Minister of Railways, while referring my letter dated 22nd June, 1998 regarding gauge conversion from Chhitauni to Gorakhpur and from Kaptanganj to Siwan replied that the work of gauge conversion from Chhitauni to Gorakhpur railway line is in progress and it will be completed by the end of this year. He further stated that the survey work in respect of gauge conversion of Kaptanganj-Siwan railway line was going on. Any decision in this regard will be taken after receiving survey-report.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Railways whether the survey-report has so far been received or not. My another submission is that a road bridge has also been sanctioned along with railway bridge in Chhitauni. Concerned state Governments of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and also the Union Government have released their share of funds for construction of this road bridge.

If the road bridge is not constructed there then the purpose will not be solved that area covered dense forest. I want that the Minister of Railways, while replying to the debates, should mention the time by when this Chhitauni road bridge is likely to be completed. He should also mention whether all the concerned departments have released their share of funds or not? If the funds have been released, by when it is likely to be completed.

Another submission is that Vaishali Express which runs from Gorakhpur to Delhi is always overcrowded. The people are demanding that either a train similar to Vaishali Express or a new train should be introduced from Gorakhpur to Delhi. The Minister of Railways himself is aware of this problem and I think he will look into it.

I had written a letter to the Minister of Railways. In his reply the hon. Minister stated that he is looking into the matter regarding repair work of the link roads of Kushinagar, Sewahi, Dudahi, Katkuian and Laxmiganj railway station. Now six months have passed since I got this reply. I therefore request the hon'ble Minister to issue instructions for repairing of those link roads.

I would like to bring another fact to the notice of the Minister of Railways that earlier in three tier coaches passengers were used to travel with reservation tickets but now general ticket holders have been allowed in them.

For travelling in three tier coaches honest passengers pay Rs. 32 as reservation charges and Rs. 20 as surcharge whereas others pay only 'Suwidha Shulk' for travelling in these three tier coaches. Due to this railway is suffering huge loss of millions of rupees. The Minister should order for an enquiry into this matter and the earlier system for sale of tickets for three tier coaches should be restored. You will be surprised to see that most of the people travel without tickets in the trains coming from Bihar. Travelling without tickets is not a matter related to Bihar only. But a peculiar thing about the trains coming from Bihar is that it has become difficult to travel even in AC and first class coaches as persons without tickets occupy seats in these coaches. I want that the hon. Minister should issue instructions to deal strictly in such matters. ...(*Interruptions*).

There have been instances that non-entitled persons travel in trains posing Members of Parliament. Because of this Railway is suffering loss to the tune of millions of rupees. I demand that strict action may be taken against those persons travelling without tickets in the trains. Without ticket passengers occupy seats even in AC first class coaches. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that strict action should be taken in this regard. Incidents of dacoities are taking place in trains. Therefore, Security arrangements should also be made in trains to check such incidents. Restaurant at Gorakhpur Railway Station is not functioning. Had it been given to a private caterer on contract basis, there would have some earning to the Railways. I want that improvement should be made in it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are suggesting that it should be given to a private caterer?

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: Yes, either make improvement in it or hand over it to a private caterer. That Restaurant is not functioning at all. Food and even tea is not being served there and there is no use of the Restaurant building.

With these words I support the supplementary demands for grants and I want that the hon. Minister may consider them. I hope that the hon. Minister will consider these demands.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a general complaint in the State of Kerala that the State is being neglected by the Railway authorities. This complaint is there for years together, but nothing has been done to improve the situation. I am also of the same opinion. I will be compelled to offer *Satyagraha* before the Railway Divisional Office, Trivandrum, if the grievances are not redressed. I have given a notice also. This is what I want to say in sum and substance.

My first and foremost demand is about the electrification of the Trivandrum-Ernakulam Section. Now, the State Government has already given an assurance to the Railway Board that they will provide power at concessional rates. There is an agreement also to that effect. However, the Ministry of Railways have not taken up the work so far. It has to be taken up immediately.

Now, I come to the doubling work of Shoranur-Mangalore Section. The work is not in progress. This is a general demand of the public for a long time. They are not doing it in spite of the repeated requests from the public. So, the work has to be expedited.

I would also like to mention about the doubling of the Quilon-Trivandrum Section. This work is also not progressing as desired by the people of Kerala. This is rather lamentable.

Now, I come to the development of Trivandrum Central Station. We can see that the State Government has surrendered most of the building in and around the Station. The Headquarters of the Kerala State Electricity Board was handed over to them years before, but they are not using it and keeping it vacant without any work. The State Government also surrendered the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation's Central Office, but it is also kept idle. It is used as a taxi stand collecting revenues from the taxi owners. I would like to point out that no development work has been started. The State Government has acquired some hotels near the Station. They are also being kept vacant without starting any construction work. The situation is lamentable. So, immediate steps should be taken towards the improvement of Trivandrum Central Station. The Railway Board had already declared it as a model Station. But no work has taken place so far. This Station is bringing revenues to the Railways which is next to Madras Central in Southern Railway. It appears that the Railway authorities are very much benefited by the Trivandrum Central Station.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

I would like to touch upon another important demand, that is, with regard to Konkan Railway. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, please conclude. You have already taken more than five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I will conclude within two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to touch upon another important demand, that is, with regard to Konkan Railway. It is said that it is running at a loss. If it is to be made remunerative, then immediate steps should be taken towards doubling of Mangalore-Shoranur Section.

Now, I come to the most important aspect, that is, about the delays in the running of trains. We travel by trains at a risk. We are not sure whether we will be alive in the morning, if we travel during night. The people are not sure of reaching their destinations. In spite of the fact that the railway journey is very risky, people will have to resort to that only because there is no other source of travel. So, the authorities should take prompt action to run the trains as per schedule. We see very often on television that Trivandrum-Mangalore Express is running late by 23 hours. Sometimes, the delay is about two to three hours, and it is very common in most of the trains. After all, life is short. It should not be spent in railway journey. So, the authorities should take immediate steps to run the trains as per schedule and help the public. ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want reply from the Minister, please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes. So I would request him to at least try to keep the schedule because time is very precious. Man's life is very short and it cannot be unnecessarily spent in railways but he has to spend much of his life time in railways because of the late running of the trains.

What about the bogies or the wagons used? We cannot travel during rainy season because the entire rain water will be inside the bogie. People are put to so many hardships.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Yes, I am concluding. I would request the Railway Minister to at least give us some good bogies.

About Varkala, I would request you to stop the train at Varkala. I have given you a notice. If it is not done, I will be compelled in my advanced age to offer *Satyagraha* before a particular office. About the Supplementary Demands for Grants, I have no objection. I support it. But the thing is that the Railways and the time schedule should be maintained properly. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): The train will run late due to his agitation.

[*Translation*]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Deputy Speaker, Sir, since the Supplementary Demands for Grants of railways have been put to the vote of the House, therefore, I would also restrict myself to the supplementary demands for grants only. In Bihar, there is a metre gauge-line between Samastipur and Khagaria. people of that area have a long pending demand to convert it into broad-gauge line because there are such station between Samastipur and Khagaria which are having metre gauge line and as a result thereof they cannot be linked with other station which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the locals. So it is necessary to convert it into broad-gauge.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a station named Dalsing Sarai in Samastipur. A lot of land of railway is lying vacant there which has been encroached upon. Railway remove this enroachment but after sometime it is again encroached upon. I would like to submit that such land of railways which is not required by Railways for a long period it could be utilised by constructing small shops on it and leasing out the same to the locals. This will not only be beneficial for the Railways but also provide opportunity to the locals.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, for a long, the matter of beautification of Dalsing Sarai railway station is a long pending one. I met Minister of Railway in this regard and requested him to pay some attention on the beautification of this railway station. Besides I would like to invite his attention towards the withdrawal of the facility closing the booking at Dalsing Sarai railway station, due to which railway is losing revenue and traders living there facing a lot of difficulties. Hon'ble Minister has assured me that

he will reconsider it. I urge upon him to restore this facility.

Sir, while supporting the proposal of Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh to introduce a Rajdhani, I would like to request you that it should be run between Muzaffarpur and Barauni via Samastipur. I would like to invite the attention of Hon'ble Minister to appoint which I had reminded him at the time of last budget also that no attention is paid to quality while making purchases for the railways. It was proved by the report of Jamalpur Railway factory a copy of which was handed over to him by me.

The main reason behind the accident occurred in the recent past was the lack of quality, as a result of which couplings were broken and accidents took place. I, therefore, make a fervent demand that stringent action should be taken against. The officers found guilty for purchasing the items of inferior quality actually responsible for the untimely death of they are hundreds of people.

With these words, I support these supplementary demands for grants.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Sir, as Shri Radhakrishnan has said the Railways is one of the most important organisations which is catering to the needs of the common man. In this context, I would like to say that South-Central Railways is running in profit and efficiently also. I do not know whether the credit would go to you or to somebody else. The hon. Minister is also aware of that. It is one of the Zonal Railways. We have got great faith on you. We thought that as a youngster, you are very dynamic and you will do things that you have promised.

During his visit to Vijayawada last time, the hon. Minister had promised that looking at the performance of the Railways there and the requirements of the people there, he would immediately start a Shatabadi train from Vijayawada to Secunderabad. I am sure that he would immediately start it, but I only wish that it should be introduced this year itself and not in the next year.

As I had explained last time, Machilipatnam is a town which has got about 1,500 years of history and there used to be a train running from Machilipatnam to Marmagoa. But today, it is a neglected district headquarters. This is the only district headquarters which does not have a direct train to the State capital. I would request the hon. Minister to provide at least a fast

passenger train, if not a super-fast train between Machilipatnam and Secunderabad. Similarly, we brought to his notice last time that the doubling work and also electrification of Guntur-Bibinagar line had to be taken up.

I suppose that at the moment, they are drawing power from the State Government. I do not know the price at which they are drawing power, but there is an opportunity now, with reduced cost of generation and cost of equipment in a competitive spirit, to get it at a cheaper price. I would like to bring it to the knowledge of the hon. Minister to see whether Railways can think in terms of starting a power project either on its own or in a joint venture with private entrepreneurs and by doing so, they can reduce the cost of power.

The hon. Minister, time and again, is feeling constraint of money in expanding the projects of Railways. He has got the opportunity to earn more money in the South-Central Railway by introducing more trains between Machilipatnam, Vijayawada and Hyderabad in which people are ready to travel, who are otherwise travelling by road transport. So, I would request the hon. Minister to give a serious thought to immediately starting this Shatabadi train and also a fast passenger train from Vijayawada to Hyderabad and Machilipatnam to Hyderabad.

As Shri Radhakrishnan was saying, in the recent past, the accidents have become more frequent, and particularly the Narsapur Express which runs between Vijayawada and Hyderabad had met with accidents on many occasions in the recent past thereby the faith of the people who travel in that train has come down. I would request the hon. Minister to find out the reasons. Of course, in the recent past, in reply to a Starred question, the hon. Minister had said that 80 per cent of the accidents had taken place only due to human failures. Unless the hon. Minister gives some deterrent, severe and stringent punishment to the people who are neglecting their duties and taking them easy, this will continue. Therefore, if he gives severe punishment to those who fail to perform their duties or are not taking proper care, then he can reduce the number of accidents taking place due to human failure. I can understand other reasons for accidents, but 80 per cent of accidents occurring due to human failure cannot be allowed to continue for ever.

Only yesterday, the Government has got a legislation passed giving death penalty for using explosive substances. I do not say that they should give death penalty here also, but some severe punishment should be given. I would also request that the inquiries should not be prolonged for years together. If he takes action

[Shri K.S. Raq]

within a short spell of time, then rest of the people will remain in form and the number of accidents can be reduced.

I just read in the newspapers recently that the hon. Minister wanted that the Rajdhani Express which is running bi-weekly between Secunderabad and New Delhi should be run once in a week. Our people are requesting us every time to go to the hon. Minister and get this train run tri-weekly. I do not know whether the news is right or wrong, but I would request the hon. Minister not to reduce the frequency because Rajdhani Express is there from everywhere to New Delhi, but it is not there from Hyderabad. It should have been run daily, but I would request the hon. Minister to make it a tri-weekly train and not a train running once in a week.

Similarly, the Minister gave a super-fast express train from New Delhi to Vijayawada, but it is taking 44 hours from here to Vijayawada instead of taking about 26 or 27 hours. May I request that instead of calling it a super-fast train, it may be called a passenger or a fast passenger train? But if he calls it a super-fast train, I would request him to reduce the time and see why it is delayed. The fare the Railways are charging in those trains is of super-fast train, but the train is going at a speed of super-passenger train. May I request the hon. Minister to find out the reasons for its getting delayed almost everyday? I can understand some reason if it is getting delayed once in a month or two. It is getting late everyday. Maybe, the Railway authorities are taking it easy thinking that no Member of Parliament is there to raise that issue or to sit on the neck of the hon. Minister and fight as to why there is such a delay.

I request the hon. Minister to pay some attention to this. Similarly, last time, you have promised to introduce a direct train from Vizag to Bangalore. You did give it, but the passengers have brought it to our notice saying that the coaches are condemned ones and that they do not offer any facilities to the passengers. May I request the hon. Minister to give some serious thought to it? I also request him to keep his commitments and promises that he made to the Members of Parliament and also in public at Vizag.

Lastly, Vizag is a fast growing industrial and business centre, and everywhere the growth is very high. So, I request the hon. Minister to introduce a direct train from Vizag to Mumbai as it will help both Vizag and Mumbai. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (Garhwal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity. The hon. Members who spoke before me have said that since discussion on demands for grants for railways is going on they are, therefore, raising supplementary demands but I am not going to put up any supplementary demand. I would just like to remind the hon. Minister that out of the demands put in the Railway budget relating to my constituency not a single demand has so far been fulfilled. My constituency has only one big station Dehradun and two other small stations. Railway earns a lot of revenue from that area if some money is spent on that area we shall be highly obliged.

Earlier I had requested for a direct train between Delhi and Kotdwar. At present seven coaches are attached in the Mussoorie Express and it cover the journey in 12 hrs. That journey can easily be covered in 5-6 hrs. The train halts at Nazibabad for 3-4 hours. Which causes a lot of inconvenience. Due to this most of the load of passenger between two places is cleared by road transport resulting in wastage of petroleum products of the nation. I am drawing attention towards it for the last seven years. Though they admit it that it required yet nothing is being done in this regard. Therefore, I request you to introduce a direct train between Delhi and Kotdwar. It will not only benefit the people but will also help in saving petroleum products of the country.

Provision of Railway out Agency was made for Garhwal and hilly areas. A few Railway out Agencies have been opened there. I would like to bring it to your notice that Railway out Agency provide facility of ticket booking and reservation. In my area for getting a ticket booked and reservation done one has to go to station twenty days in advance and the station is so far that it takes two days to reach there by bus and it entails expenditure of two hundred rupees. The computerisation have been introduced in Railways for ticket booking and reservation. I am thankful to you for installing a computerised reservation centre in my constituency and we shall be very grateful to you if computerised reservation facility could be provided in the interior areas. Where people face lot of difficulties in booking their tickets.

As regards late running of trains I had mentioned earlier also that the train which runs between Howrah and Dehradun, reaches Lucknow 5-6 hrs. behind its scheduled time and sometimes it runs late by more than 20 hrs. I had suggested that one AC-II tier coach be

attached to Varanasi, Dehradun Janta Train from Lucknow instead of Howrah Express. Many a members of Parliament had supported it. It will not cause any problem. But no action has been taken in this regard. One has to reach Lucknow Station by 6.30 P.M. for catching this train but has to wait for hours together at the station. I myself have waited till 2 o'clock at night for boarding that train.

Some amount has been sanctioned for renewal and extension of Dehradun station. I urge upon you to instruct your department to expedite the work.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra): Hon'ble Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards 2-3 points. First and foremost I would like to congratulate Railway Minister Shri Nitish Kumar for doing good work in Railways. But I would like to remind him about the assurance given by the erstwhile Railway Minister Shri Paswan that the South bound Tamil Nadu and Rajdhani Express would be provided stoppage at Agra. But inspite of that promise no stoppage of these trains was provided at Agra which is unfortunate. Kindly provide stoppage of these trains at Agra. Next, I would like to request you to add more bogies in Kerala and A.P. Express for the benefit of those South Indian people who live in and around Agra.

Thirdly, bearths in sleeper class of Marudhar and Awadh Express be also increased. Fourthly, an over bridge at Raja Ki Mandi at Agra be constructed. My fifth point is that there is a need to expedite the project approved for doubling of the railway line at Tundla-Yamuna Bridge Section. Apart from this, a computerised reservation system be introduced at Idgah Railway Station by making it Central Station of Agra in Western Railways.

At last I would like to request you to expedite the Agra-Bandikui gauge conversion work which is in progress.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad): I have to make only three suggestions. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would put three points before hon'ble Minister of Railways through you. First laying of railway lines from Agra to Bateshwar via Fatehabad which is the birth place of hon'ble Prime Minister. This issue has been there since tenth Lok Sabha. I wanted to know the progress made in this regard from the Railway Minister...(*Interruptions*). Let me speak please.

My next point is related to Firozabad. Traders from every part of the country visit this city...(*Interruptions*). The proposal regarding construction of an overbridge at

Suwabad, Firozabad is in the process since 10th Lok Sabha. The system there is as such that inspite of a serious accident an overbridge couldn't be constructed there. Therefore, at least an overbridge be constructed at Suwabad. Another overbridge should also be constructed a Saiya near Agra on Delhi-Mumbai National Highway where traffic jam for hours is a daily feature. That's why I am demanding for an overbridge there. I had requested for a computerised reservation centre as well as beautification of the Firozabad Railway Station but so far neither computerisation of reservation centre has been done nor a single penny has been sanctioned for the developmental work there. We have waited till two o'clock to take part in Railway Budget therefore I request hon'ble Railway Minister to mention about my demands in your reply. I request the hon'ble Railway Minister to expedite the laying of new railway line from Agra to Burabati and Buteshwar, Fatehabad, Jaspur and congratulate him if it is in progress else we will be dejected.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Women Reservation Bill was introduced in the House this year. The ladies train originating from Church Gate in Mumbai met an accident at Kandivali. While it was running towards Boriwali from Kandivali some compartments had caught fire. Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Sharad Pawar knows that some compartments had caught fire. As some compartments had caught fire the ladies became panicky and Jumped down from the running train and many of them died. The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Ram Naik is not present in the House. A repeated demand is being made for compensation but so far no compensation has been given to their kins. I urge upon the Minister of Railways to give compensation to the family members of the deceased.

My another demand is that there is a foot bridge at Parel which can collapse if there is over crowding on it and an mishap may take place there. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Minister to reconstruct it.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has sanctioned the Chandigarh-Ludhiana railway line. The demand was pending since long. My request is that...(*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If anybody from this side wants to say something he would be given a chance to do so.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR (Baramati): The Members belonging to treasury benches take more time. We will raise the question of quorum.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: We are talking about the decorum. Why are you talking about quorum...*(Interruptions)*.

I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Railways for sanctioning the Chandigarh-Ludhiana railway line. I would urge him to expedite the work on this railway line. A decision was taken to make Chandigarh railway station a six line track. This work should also be expedited so that our demand of starting trains for U.P. and Bihar could be met early.

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Mr. Chairman, Sir. I request the hon. Minister of Railways to order survey for a new railway line from Agartala to Sabrum, and to ensure early completion of the Kumarghat-Agartala broad gauge project.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH (Arrah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Arrah-Sasaram metre gauge railway line was not functional for years. The hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Nitish Kumar sanctioned Rs. 120 crore for it and by releasing Rs. 12 crore the work has started there. We present it as an example before the people that many other pending works have been taken up since he became the Minister. We would like to congratulate him for his sincere efforts.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to thank hon. members for participating in this discussion, putting some demands and giving a few suggestions. We will certainly pay attention to those and will take suitable action and we will also inform them.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: People say

[English]

'Where there is a will, there is a railways; where there is no will, there is a survey.'

[Translation]

What is your opinion in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will say.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: A few things are continuing from decades, I don't know how long they will continue, it is not necessary to comment on that. Discussions on Supplementary Demands for Grants are going on. There are 26 items in all for which we have requested to the House, to pass the grants. Utmost emphasis has been given to the works pertaining to safety. There are six items for road over-bridge, three for different type of bridges, three items are related, to signal and telecommunication, seven items are meant for track renewal, and all these items are related to Safety Demands have been made under three items as operational requirement for running of railways. For other work one item is repair workshop, one item is for electric supply. One is related to passenger amenity and one is related to new zone. There are 26 items in all and total cost of work amounts to Rs. 191 crore. But our demands for grant is just symbolic. The expenditure to be incurred this year shall be adjusted from the grants you have already made earlier. Therefore we want approval of the house in this regard. He has presented this supplementary demands for the items which have been considered to be very essential and which items were already approved in the last years budget.

Network of railway is vast. Every citizen has interest in Railway, and so it is obvious that every hon. Member will having interest in it. A few points have been raised in this regard. I would like to comment on those in brief. But there are two basic things a new budget will be presented before you after a few months, in the meantime we are discussing on supplementary demands. Therefore, it is essential to draw the attention of House towards a few things and it is also essential to give some information in the House. Funds are required to fulfill all the demands. At first we should look at our financial position. At first I would like to inform that our performance, achievement, our income is not as much as we had estimated. The main reason is that passenger traffic is the source of income of railway. Railway earns profit from freight but this time he had a projection of carrying a certain amount of freight. Accordingly we reviewed the situation, and found that the quantum of goods transported was lower than that of previous year and the target could not be achieved. Hence we are not satisfied with the situation and we have initiated several measures. I have convened the meetings of General Managers given them some powers and I have fixed targets that quantum of transportation of goods should not be lower than that of previous year at any cost but in several cases there is no fault of railways. Railways' loading strategy has been changing for last few years. Earlier railway used to accept piecemeal traffic. Later Railway began to concentrate upon bulk traffic and decided not to accept piecemeal traffic. Gradually railways moved towards road traffic. We are

the movers of bulk traffic, and particularly programme traffic, which include the core sector such as transportation of coal, steel, raw material, cement, fertilizer, foodgrains this is the traffic that is moved, but demands of core sector and programme traffic has gone down and Railway has no control over it. It was stated that transportation of coal will be required. There was a time when power plants had stocks only for two-three days. Three four years ago situation was such and wagons were brought in on such a large scale and resultant of it there are surplus wagons today. Railway is not getting the traffic for which it is meant for. Now it will be said that this year freight fare is more, but it is not proper. Freight is raised every year, freight is not raised this year and several concessions have been granted, even then we could not achieve that target. The result is that Railways is not having the contribution of its own. The performance, we expected from the core sector has not been achieved. However, it did affect our income, our earning. We have taken several steps. Though there is a time constraint yet I would like to refer to some of the steps taken by us because the House must know about it later on if any matter crops up then it will be before the House and I want to put it before the House. Candidly that a number of decisions were taken and several concessions were given in order to attract traffic. Besides Core Sector, others are traffic goods which constitutes 8-9 or 10 percent and the rest 90 percent is programme traffic. This is what has been affected mainly. It is also affected by the prevailing national and international economic situation. But we are working out a strategy. We have taken many decisions on the basis of which we hope that loading will go up substantially in remaining months and the situation will improve in comparison to what it was during the last year. It is necessary to refer to some of the important decisions. During the month of September the Power House were given the facility of making payment within 10 days for loading of coal. This facility was also provided for the coal being supplied to the Steelplant. In order to increase the loading of cement, steel, iron-ore and sponge iron, the Government have launched a Volume Discount Scheme under which ten percent will be given. There is another scheme to attract transportation of imported coal to railways from roadways orders for giving discount upto ten percent have already been given upto now. General Managers had to take technical sanction from the Railway Board under the Station to Station scheme. It has since been decided that the General Managers need not come to Railway Board for taking such technical sanctions.

I hope, this will enable General Managers to take speedy decisions and this will benefit the Railways. They have discretion to reduce the fixed freight charge in order to attract traffic. Besides point to point loading is also being done by the Railways. Now this facility has been

provided on selected stations so that quantum of loading can be increased. Earlier, a full rate was charged for, loading, now it will be done on two points. This will also help in attracting traffic. Besides, several other steps have been taken. There has been conference of General Managers and the matter has also been discussed with the Railway Board. Instructions have been given that the Railway Board and the Zonal Railways should make such policies which could help attract traffic. We have changed the old strategy of wait and watch. i.e. the loading will be done as and when we are approached rather now the needy people will be approached so that there is a maximum loading and the target is achieved. In this manner if we are not able to achieve the target, at least our position will be definitely better as compared to the previous year. That should be our target. Thus I have apprised you of the financial condition.

Another point is concerning expenditure. While the Budget was under preparation, there was an estimate that expenditure on pension item would come down with the rise given in retirement age of Government employees. This is not only the situation in Railways rather it is same in all the departments throughout the country. Later on, we discovered that after the pay scale revision by the Fifth Pay Commission, revision petitions were coming in large number and they are more than expectation. Subsequently, the expenditure will exceed to the tune of Rs. 1000-1200 crore than what was provided earlier. On the one hand, there will be an increase in expenditure and on the other hand the earning will not be in line with the expectation. I have explained the financial position to you. It is right that this will have its impact on everything and everywhere. It may affect schemes but we shall not allow it to have its impact on those schemes which are to be completed this year. Moreover, we will not make a compromise so far safety is concerned. Nevertheless, the expenditure on safety will be increased if needed. Several Members have raised questions on safety issue. We have decided that there should be a communication system between the driver and the guard. This facility should be provided first in passenger trains. So far, this facility was available only in a few trains, but this work has been taken up on a war footing. Hopefully, walky-talky will be made available in every passenger trains by March, 1999 so that the driver and the guard may contact each other. Similarly, there are several other safety-related demands which will be fulfilled and money will not come in the way. There are particular projects which will be completed in next few years. It is quite possible that these projects may take some more time i.e. more than a month or so for completion. I am saying this, keeping in view, the present economic scenario. It was very necessary to mention it.

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Another matter of grave concern is the safety aspect. Safety is the matter of highest priority for us. Demand regarding trains has been raised and it is said that these demands should be accepted. Besides this it was asked that demands of gauge conversion should also be accepted that's why I have mentioned about the economic situation. Besides, whatever money is there, it is very limited. With this limited money we have to do our business. So it is to be decided whether safety should be given top priority or not. If so, then we have to keep control over other things. We have to restrain ourselves in other matters for the time being. It is true that these are popular demands. New trains should be introduced, new railway lines should be laid, these all works should go on. But at present our greatest concern is the safety of the railways. Recently safety work has been affected and its result is that the renewal work of railway tracks was due. Replying to a question in this House I had informed that the renewal work of 10,000 Km. railway track is due at present and it should be completed. As such our planning is that at the completion of the 9th Five Year Plan there should not be any track renewal due on routes A and B. No track renewal task is left out, but money is required for all those works. We have to do some other works also for the modernisation of signals and telecommunications. I have mentioned today about the driver and guard, besides this there should also be some system through which Driver and Guard could contact the railway station and control-room. After achieving these goals, we need to go further and develop a device so that contacts could be established in the trains coming closer. These all things need our attention.

Sir, today Khanna railway accident is being discussed with anxiety. This is very unfortunate that there was no mechanism to save it. But this is a challenge for us though technology has its own limit. Train was running on track and all of sudden this accident happened. Later on reason was learnt that there was a fracture on railway line and because of that train got de-railed. After derailment one coach of the train fell on the other track. With the derailment the coupling of train also failed and the half part of the train got advanced. At the same time the train came from the other side and one part of it was pushed on to the other track. Driver was unaware of this fact that one part of the train is delinked and it slipped at the other track. He realised it after sometime when he was downing the pressure. When driver was unknown to this incident how he could have opted for safety measures like putting on the flasher, which was available there. So he couldn't on the flasher. In the mean time train come into with very high speed from the other end. This all happened within a minute or so. Not only in our country but nowhere in the world any such technology is available which could prevent accidents in

such a situation when trains are coming from both end at the high speed of 100 Kmph. Another unfortunate accident happened within a week or so after this accident. One train Jagannathpuri Express got derailed. Here also a train was coming from opposite direction but there was time of three to four minutes. So driver switched on the flasher and got the train stopped. Thus accident was averted. So if there is even a little time of 3-4 minutes then some action could be taken to prevent the accident. Technology is already there to avoid such accidents but some improvement is required in it. Fracture takes place in the rail. These are many aspects. The study is going on. This problem is not limited to our country but it is prevalent world wide. A Research Project was taken up in the International Railway Union and Indian Railway is also participating. In this Project besides French, Russian, Chinese and European Railways are also participants. All are working in combined team. European Rail Research Institute is co-ordinating this Project. In our country work on this project being done in RISO, and its report will be submitted by 2000. Fractures in railway lines are the cause of concern. Every where studies are being done on it. You may not be aware of this fact and I was also surprised to know it that on an iron track there runs an iron wheel and between track and wheel there is only wheel-track interaction. Much research work has not been done over it. Recently when we came to know about it then a decision was taken to create a seat in the University of Roorkee and for it railways is giving an amount of Rs. 50 lakhs so that a study centre could be created there and railway could be benefitted by it. There are so many subjects where study is required. The main thing is that we should utilise the technology which we have. We have the safety rules and we should follow them. We should also follow the safety norms. And above all we should pay utmost attention towards the maintenance. We should not ignore it. And I assure this that maintenance will be given top priority. If this House had sufficient time then hon'ble Members could have expressed themselves well and their thoughts could have benefitted us more.

I have just covered a few points in brief, had there been some more time I would have expressed my views in detail. It does not pertain to any individual as such it is a matter concerning the whole system. In order to improve the system, responsibility should be fixed on the person who commits the mistake and lesson should be learnt from the past accidents and plans should be formulated so that accidents in future may be averted.

Three committees were constituted earlier on safety which gave their reports and some action was also taken on their recommendations. A safety review committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Khanna has been

constituted recently and it is on the job. Commissioner Railway safety has given his preliminary report about the accident which occurred at Khanna, we are initiating action in this regard. A judicial inquiry has already been ordered and action is being taken in this regard. Correspondence is going on, name of a judge who can be appointed as chairman, is being sought. It takes time to complete the formalities, a judicial enquiry would also be conducted. We will take all the necessary steps. There will be no laxity on our part. I would like to draw your attention towards some of those proposals, which were included in last year's budget but have not been implemented. In the last year's budget regarding railways operation we had said that 13 new trains will be introduced, out of which 9 trains have already been started and 4 new trains are likely to be started very soon. A few trains will be started in the first week of January, hence we had fulfilled whatever promises we had made.

We had also stated that a few trains will be augmented and 24 coaches will be attached to them. A decision has already been taken in regard to three trains viz. Godavari express from Hyderabad to Vishakhapatnam, Charminar Express from Hyderabad to Chennai and A.P. Express from Hyderabad to New Delhi.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Godavari Express already runs from Vizag to Secunderabad.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: You are not listening. I had said that trains with 24 coaches will be run. 24 coaches have been attached to these trains. Then I had said that more coaches would be attached. In all 378 coaches have been attached. You can calculate it and can count the number of trains i.e. the number of coaches are not less than 20-22 trains. Now you calculate the increased number of passengers who can travel in it. 106 coaches of general class have been attached. We have attached 272 coaches of reserved compartment. Thus we have raised the capacity to carry 9500 more passengers per day. We have raised the capacity to carry 16320 more passengers in 272 reserved coaches. Thus we have succeeded in raising capacity to carry more than 25000 and just less than 26000 passengers. Besides that out of 13 new trains, nine have been started, two are likely to be started very soon and we will start others also very soon. We are trying to execute whatever we have announced. So far as implementation of projects is concerned, Raghuvansh Babu was just now mentioning about Hajipur-Sugauli line via Vaishali. Vaishali have the

roots of democracy. Leave the history alone, everyone knows about it. It is a matter of general knowledge. He has got the reply of the question he has raised. Survey work of this line has already been completed and after necessary examination by the board it will be sent to planning commission. Again it will come back to us and then it will be sent to Cabinet. These formalities will have to be completed. Do you want us to include the schemes in the budget in a casual manner so that you keep insisting for it for two-three years. You too are aware unless Cabinet accords approval, no expenses will be incurred on it. You yourself have been in the Government in Bihar and here also.

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Not Started...

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I will not use word 'start' for that. I have explained you about the Ganges bridge in Patna thrice in detail. You will be pleased to know that the survey work has been completed. All the required data have been collected for model test. It has already been sent for model test to the institute where it should have been sent. After getting its report, it will be reviewed and then will be processed and will be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. Action is being taken on all ongoing projects.

20.00 hrs.

I meet different Members of Parliament everyday everyweek as and when they want to meet me. I am a their service everytime and I am always eager to help them. So, I would like to request you all to please have patience. Pending schemes have been included in the Budget. They are being implemented. Steps have been taken for giving clearance to those schemes, and I would like to assure you that as soon as those schemes get clearance their implementation will start.

Something has been said about new projects. This is a Supplementary Demand with a limited scope. This has been brought before the House because we had to take some decisions as per their requirement. Other things may be taken up for discussion in next year's budget discussion. The working of the Railway Department is such that it requires to have a continuous contact. The execution of work takes time. It would be taken care of.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: The hon. Minister had assured to accommodate this in the Supplementary Demands. Let us know the progress of it... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If you were so interested you should have given a notice of question. It is not proper

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

to ask since you are sitting just behind me. It would have been better if you would have raised it from some distance.

With these words, I would request this august House to kindly pass the motion moved by me.

[English]

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (Narasaraopet): I thank the hon. Minister for the clarifications that he has given. He is making a lot of efforts to improve the conditions of Railways and to bring down the accidents. I would like to appreciate all these things. He requires a lot of money for opening new lines and doing other things.

Sir, now the Government is allowing foreign investment in many sectors. Will the Ministry of Railways also allow investments from abroad for the construction of new and additional lines?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: So far as the issue of private sector participation in Railway Projects is concerned, you are aware that one BOLT Scheme had been launched whose response was not good. Rawat Saheh was referring to the Agra-Bandikui Rail Line. That was under the BOLT Scheme. Nobody came forward and that work could not be started. Ultimately, it was taken out from the BOLT Scheme and a provision was made for it in the Budget. He was asking about it, regarding its progress. Tender have been invited for it and that work will be started...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: If you plan properly, it can be done even in the case of Railways...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1998-99 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated Fund to defray the charges

that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1999, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 2 and 16."

The motion was adopted.

20.05 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 4 BILL*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II-Section 2, Dated 18-12-98.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, 21 December, 1998 at 11.00 hours.

20.07 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 21, 1998/ Agrahayana 30, 1920 (Saka)
