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Friday, December 3, 2004
Agrahayana 12, 1926 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES
(English Version)

Third Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. V, Third Session, 2004/1926 (Saka)]

No. 3, Friday, December 3, 2004/Agrahayana 12, 1926 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 41, 42 and 44	1—42
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 43 and 45-60	42—78
Unstarred Question Nos. 461-509 and 511-689	78—408
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	408—422
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	422—423
FINANCIAL COMMITTEES—A REVIEW (2001-02), (2002-03) AND (2003-04)	423
PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES—SUMMARY OF WORK	423
AMENDMENT TO THE DIRECTIONS BY THE SPEAKER (FIFTH EDITION) UNDER THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT OF BUSINESS IN LOK SABHA	423—424
COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	
Second Report	424
RULES COMMITTEE	
Second Report and Minutes	424
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	
Second Report and Minutes	424
STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE	
Eighty-third Report	425
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
National Cadet Corps	425
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	426—429
MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	429—430

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
CENTRAL EXCISE TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL	454—460, 465—487
Motion to Consider	454
Shri P. Chidambaram	454
Shri P.S. Gadhavi	454
Shri K.S. Rao	455—450
Shri B. Mahtab	459—462
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	462—464
Shri P. Chidambaram	464—465
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	465—467
Motion to Pass	467
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Terrorist fidayeen attack on CRPF camp at Sopore, Dist. Baramulla (Jammu and Kashmir)	
Shri S. Regupathy	461—467
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (REPEAL) ORDINANCE	
AND	
PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (REPEAL) BILL	
AND	
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT ORDINANCE	
AND	
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION) AMENDMENT BILL	467
Motions to Consider	467
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	467—469
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	469
Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'	469—471
Shri Lakshman Singh	472—480
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	481—484
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i) Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 2, etc.)	
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	484
(ii) Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill (Insertion of new section 2A)	
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	484—485
(iii) National Commission for Senior Citizens Bill	
Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	485

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 298, etc.) Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	485—486
(v) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 103, etc.) Shri Anant Gangaram Geete	486
(vi) Cotton Growers (Welfare) Bill Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	486—487
(vii) Unemployment Allowance Bill Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	487
(viii) Chilli Growers (Welfare) Bill Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	487
(ix) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 55, etc.) Shri Mohan Singh	487—488
(x) Rural Labour Welfare Fund Bill Shri Suresh Chandel	488
(xi) Drought Prone Areas Development Authority Bill Shri Suresh Chandel	488—489
(xii) Agricultural Workers (Employment, Conditions of Service and Welfare) Bill Shri R. Sambasiva Rao	489
(xiii) Uniform Marriage and Divorce Bill Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	489—490
(xiv) Government of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Bill Shri Basu Deb Acharia	490
(xv) Government of Union Territory of Lakshadweep Bill Shri Basu Deb Acharia	490—491
(xvi) Electricity (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 3, etc.) Shri Basu Deb Acharia	491
(xvii) Prevention of Social Disabilities Bill Shri Kashiram Rana	491—492
(xviii) High Court of Gujarat (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Surat) Bill Shri Kashiram Rana	492
(xix) Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill, (Amendment of the Schedule) Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	493
(xx) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of the Eighth Schedule) Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	493
(xxi) Most Backward Classes (Proportional Representation in Services and Educational Institutions) Bill Shri Kashiram Rana	494
(xxii) Technology Bank of India Bill Shri Kashiram Rana	494
(xxiii) Women (Reservation in Service) Bill	494
Shrimati Krishna Tirath	495

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xxiv) Income Tax (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new section 4A)	
Shri S.P.Y. Reddy	495
(xxv) Fishermen (Insurance) Bill	
Shri A.P. Abdullakutty	496
(xxvi) Ban on Witchcraft Bill	
Shrimati Karuna Shukla	496
(xxvii) Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 3)	
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	497
(xxviii) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of sections 12 and 154)	
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	497
(xxix) Provision of Free Medical and Engineering Education to Meritorious Students Bill	
Shri Ramdas Athawale	498
(xxx) Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services) Bill	
Shri Ramdas Athawale	498—499
(xxxii) Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill (Insertion of new section 3C)	
Shri S.P.Y. Reddy	499
(xxxiii) Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill (Substitution of new section for section 8, etc.)	
Shri Suresh Chandel	499—500
(xxxiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 164)	
Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak	516
(xxxv) Delimitation (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 2)	
Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak	516
PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (REPEAL) BILL	500
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL	501—515,
(Insertion of new Article 21B, etc.)	516—538
Motion to Consider	501
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	501—575
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	516—522
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	523—525
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	526—529
Prof. Rana Singh Rawat	529—534
Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	534—537
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	539—540
Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	540—546
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	547—548
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	547—548

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, December 3, 2004/Agrahayana 12, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijoy Krishna, Question No. 41.

[English]

Food for Work Programme

*41. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new comprehensive food-for-work programme has been launched to provide at least 100 days employment to all able bodied persons in rural areas;

(b) if so, the salient features of the programme and the steps being taken for its effective implementation;

(c) whether the food for work programme has been extended to 150 most backward districts in various States;

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

(e) the details of additional funds required by and proposed to be provided to each of such districts, State-wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A new poverty alleviation programme, National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) has been launched from the month of November 2004 in 150 most backward

Districts of the Country to generate supplementary wage employment with food security. All the States except Goa have been covered under the programme. The programme is open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work.

(b) The salient features of the programme are; (i) it is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme, (ii) foodgrains are also provided to the States free of cost, (iii) the transportation cost, handling charges, and taxes on foodgrains are the responsibility of the States, (iv) works to be taken up under the programme in accordance with the Five Year Perspective Plan, (v) Collector will be the nodal officer for preparation of the Perspective Plan and programme implementation, (vi) wages to workers shall not be less than notified Minimum Wages, (vii) wages to be paid through a mix of cash and foodgrains, and (viii) focus of the programme will be on works relating to water conservation, drought proofing (including afforestation/tree plantation), land development, flood-control/protection (including drainage in waterlogged areas) and rural connectivity in terms of all-weather roads.

For effective implementation of the programme, apart from periodical reporting on quantitative and qualitative aspects of the programme, a number of steps have been taken like schedule of periodic inspection of works by State, district, sub-divisional and block level officers, mandatory constitution of monitoring committees of local people when the work is taken up, the Panchayat concerned will have the right to inspect and review the progress of any work under the Scheme in its jurisdiction, 100% verification of works by the independent agencies under the District Level Monitoring scheme of the Ministry, mandatory physical and financial audit by the Local Fund Audit or by the Chartered Accountants at the end of financial year of each District.

(c) to (e) The programme has been introduced in the identified 150 most backward Districts of the Country. All the States have been covered except Goa. Under the programme an amount of Rs. 2020 crore along with 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated during the current financial year *i.e.* 2004-05. The details of State-wise Districts identified with allocation of resources for the current year is at Annexure.

Annexure**Allocation under National Food for Work Programme during 2004-05**

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No.	Name of the Districts	Foodgrains in Metric Tonnes			Total Foodgrains
				Funds* (Rs. in lakhs)	Wheat	Rice	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh (8)	1.	Adilabad	2245.09	0	22053	22053
		2.	Mahbubnagar	1974.18	0	19394	19394
		3.	Rangareddy	1548.94	0	15217	15217
		4.	Khammam	1721.39	0	16911	16911
		5.	Warangal	1819.46	0	17874	17874
		6.	Nalgonda	1481.21	0	14553	14553
		7.	Anantpur	1036.42	0	10182	10182
		8.	Cudappah	939.39	0	9229	9229
2.	Arunachal Pradesh (1)	1.	Upper Subansiri	127.16	0	1249	1249
3.	Assam (5)	1.	Kokrajhar	3307.40	0	32490	32490
		2.	North Cachar Hills	1571.34	0	15437	15437
		3.	Karbi Anglong	2573.51	0	25282	25282
		4.	Dhemaji	1837.03	0	18047	18047
		5.	North Lakhimpur	1804.60	0	17728	17728
Bihar (15)	Bihar (15)	1.	Araria	1151.04	0	11309	11309
		2.	Vaishali	2227.76	0	21886	21886
		3.	Gaya	2927.88	0	28764	28764
		4.	Madhubani	1999.16	0	19639	19639
		5.	Muzaffarpur	2239.00	0	21996	21996
		6.	Nawadah	1675.66	0	16462	16462
		7.	Samastipur	2144.08	0	21063	21063
		8.	Sheohar	1176.64	0	11558	11558
		9.	Katihar	1781.84	0	17506	17506
		10.	Jamui	1873.64	0	18406	18406
		11.	Lakhisarai	1500.17	0	14738	14738

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		12.	Monghyr	1511.41	0	14849	14849
		13.	Purnea	1302.18	0	12793	12793
		14.	Supaul	1968.56	0	19340	19340
		15.	Darbhanga	2124.72	0	20874	20874
5.	Chhattisgarh (10)	1	Bastar	1457.06	0	14314	14314
		2.	Dantewada	1097.20	0	10779	10779
		3.	Kanker	932.32	0	9159	9159
		4.	Koria	945.73	0	9291	9291
		5.	Sarguja	1612.14	0	15837	15837
		6.	Jaspur	1009.79	0	9919	9919
		7.	Dhamatri	667.12	0	6554	6554
		8.	Raigarh	1060.35	0	10418	10418
		9.	Bilaspur	1183.35	0	11626	11626
		10.	Rajnandgaon	1134.73	0	11148	11148
6.	Gujarat (6)	1.	Dangs	699.27	0	6873	6873
		2.	Dohad	942.10	0	9262	9262
		3.	Panch Mahals	857.89	0	8433	8433
		4.	Sabarkantha	669.37	0	6580	6580
		5.	Namada	411.27	0	4044	4044
		6.	Banaskantha	595.12	0	5850	5850
7.	Haryana (1)	1.	Mohindergarh	294.57	2894	0	2894
8.	Himachal Pradesh (1)	1.	Chamba	317.63	1386	1735	3121
9.	Jammu & Kashmir (2)	1.	Doda	280.00	1491	1259	2750
		2.	Kupwara	236.56	0	2324	2324
10.	Jharkhand (14)	1.	Saraikela	1194.55	3409	8328	11737
		2.	Singbhum West	2339.80	6555	16432	22987
		3.	Godda	1778.03	5012	12455	17467
		4.	Simdega	1258.35	3538	8825	12363
		5.	Gumla	1912.27	5398	13389	18787
		6.	Chatra	1823.21	5143	12781	17924

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		7.	Garhwa	2324.60	6553	16285	22838
		8.	Palamau	2212.42	6298	15436	21734
		9.	Latehar	1246.80	3451	8797	12248
		10.	Lohardagga	1163.34	3278	8149	11427
		11.	Dumka	2005.82	5657	14049	19706
		12.	Jamtara	895.97	2522	6279	8801
		13.	Sahebganj	1700.95	4795	11916	16711
		14.	Pakur	1758.27	4951	12323	17274
11.	Karnataka (3)	1.	Chitradurga	1093.01	2147	8591	10738
		2.	Davanagere	1032.28	2029	8113	10142
		3.	Bidar	932.14	1832	7326	9158
12.	Kerala (1)	1.	Waynad	571.84	1873	3745	5618
13.	Madhya Pradesh (15)	1.	Jhabua	2035.47	0	19997	19997
		2.	Mandla	1186.63	743	10916	11659
		3.	Umaria	827.76	1512	6619	8131
		4.	Shahdol	1371.01	1265	12205	13470
		5.	Barwani	1342.09	11533	1652	13185
		6.	Khargone	1314.99	12919	0	12919
		7.	Shivpuri	716.25	7037	0	7037
		8.	Sidhi	1248.96	3195	9075	12270
		9.	Tikamgarh	611.98	4791	1221	6012
		10.	Balaghat	874.42	1594	6996	8590
		11.	Chattarpur	683.85	5393	1326	6719
		12.	Betul	1208.57	9358	2509	11867
		13.	Khandwa	1140.83	9606	1603	11209
		14.	Seopur	319.81	2735	406	3141
		15.	Dhar	1639.27	16104	0	16104
14.	Maharashtra (11)	1.	Gadchiroli	1212.18	2742	9167	11909
		2.	Gondya	1240.30	2795	9285	12080
		3.	Chandrapur	1739.55	3933	13156	17089

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		4.	Dhule	1275.80	8018	4516	12534
		5.	Nandurbar	1709.23	3866	12925	16791
		6.	Hingoli	1267.91	10275	2183	12458
		7.	Nanded	1813.19	14693	3121	17814
		8.	Aurangabad	921.38	7468	1585	9053
		9.	Ahmednagar	1614.13	13081	2778	15859
		10.	Yawatmal	226.82	14215	8005	22220
		11.	Bhandara	1139.18	2575	8616	11191
15.	Manipur (1)	1.	Tamelong	266.06	0	2614	2614
16.	Meghalaya (1)	1.	South Garo Hills	362.46	0	3562	3562
17.	Mizoram (1)	1.	Siaha	63.66	0	626	626
18.	Nagaland (1)	1.	Mon	303.72	1492	1492	2984
19.	Orissa (18)	1.	Koraput	1784.62	0	17533	17533
		2.	Malkangiri	1347.50	0	13237	13237
		3.	Nabarangpur	1744.50	0	17139	17139
		4.	Rayagada	1593.93	0	15715	15715
		5.	Mayurbhanj	2517.13	0	24731	24731
		6.	Sundergarh	1792.79	0	17612	17612
		7.	Keonjhar	1670.29	0	16408	16408
		8.	Phulbani	1250.76	0	12288	12288
		9.	Boudh	771.47	0	7579	7579
		10.	Nuapada	1034.59	0	10165	10165
		11.	Kalahandi	1453.34	0	14282	14282
		12.	Sambalpur	933.73	0	9172	9172
		13.	Ganjam	1528.88	0	15020	15020
		14.	Deogarh	583.00	0	5727	5727
		15.	Jharsuguda	686.12	0	6741	6741
		16.	Sonepur	657.80	0	6464	6464
		17.	Bolangir	1103.23	0	10838	10838
		18.	Dhenikanal	835.86	0	8212	8212

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Punjab (1)	1.	Hoshiarpur	748.65	7356	0	7356
21.	Rajasthan (5)	1.	Banswara	1248.35	8841	0	8841
		2.	Dungarpur	842.15	8272	0	8272
		3.	Udaipur	1147.48	11271	0	11271
		4.	Sirohi	405.05	3979	0	3979
		5.	Karauli	397.56	3906	0	3906
22.	Sikkim (1)	1.	North Sikkim	210.42	0	2068	2068
23.	Tamil Nadu (4)	1.	Tiruvannamalai	1443.54	0	14181	14181
		2.	South Arcot/Cuddalor	1167.53	0	11471	11471
		3.	Villupuram	1595.86	0	15679	15679
		4.	Nagapattinam	863.64	0	8484	8484
24.	Tripura (1)	1.	Dhalai	1028.60	0	10105	10105
25.	Uttaranchal (2)	1.	Champawat	223.67	2197	0	2197
		2.	Tehri Garhwal	837.00	2754	5467	8221
26.	Uttar Pradesh (15)	1.	Sonbhadra	2295.10	0	22542	22542
		2.	Unnao	2625.13	25785	0	25785
		3.	Raebareli	2882.60	28312	0	28312
		4.	Sitapur	3262.20	32041	0	32041
		5.	Hardoi	2832.43	27820	0	27820
		6.	Fatehpur	1880.43	18469	0	18469
		7.	Lalitpur	689.32	6770	0	6770
		8.	Lakhimpur Kheri	2083.76	20467	0	20467
		9.	Banda	932.17	9156	0	9156
		10.	Chitrakoot	585.11	5747	0	5747
		11.	Mirzapur	1779.94	0	17482	17482
		12.	Kushinagar	1781.00	0	17492	17492
		13.	Mahoba	474.73	4662	0	4662
		14.	Hamirpur	697.31	6850	0	6850
		15.	Barabanki	2767.61	27184	0	27184

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	West Bengal (6)	1. Purulia		3838.74	0	37715	37715
		2. Malda		1425.30	0	14002	14002
		3. West Midnapur		2346.74	0	23059	23059
		4. Bankura		1773.46	0	17421	17421
		5. West/North Dinajpur		1329.09	0	13058	13058
		6. Murshidabad		1253.27	0	12313	12313
		Total		201900.00	514991	1485009	2000000

*Rs. One crore have been kept for other expenditure e.g. IEC, HRD and other administrative expenses at the Ministry level.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, food for work programme has been launched keeping in view poverty alleviation and food security. Drought affected areas would to be given priority under this programme. The Hon. Minister is aware that a big area of Bihar particularly, Mokama, Badhaiya, Taal area of Fatuha in central Bihar is drought affected. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to include Patna, Aurangabad and Nalanda in the list of those districts? He has done a good job by including Nawada and Gaya districts in the said list. My first supplementary question is whether he would include said districts in the list. My second supplementary question is....

MR. SPEAKER: One by one.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was our commitment in the Common Minimum Programme to implement Food for Work programme immediately regarding which scheme has been formulated and 150 districts have been identified from all over the country on the basis of three criteria namely the percentage of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, agriculture productivity per labour and minimum wage rate and also the districts that have been selected for National Labour Development Scheme and in consultation with the Planning Commission on the basis of the those criteria, 150 districts have been identified for this purpose. The hon. Member wants that certain other districts that have been affected by drought should also be selected, as a very large area of the country is in the grip of drought, all the members would like to get their district to be included in the list but as of now the Prime Minister has initiated the scheme from Andhra Pradesh on the birth day of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru on 14th November

for 150 districts that have been selected on the basis of fixed criteria and the Prime Minister has provided 2 crore rupees for each district. A perspective plan has to be formulated for five years under the scheme and this task has to be done in the first phase. Besides, we have promised an employment guarantee law. That is why as a stop gap arrangement we have started this Food for Work Programme which was our commitment and we would decide about the districts that have been mentioned by the Hon. Members after assessing the situation.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: My pointed question was whether Patna, Aurangabad, Nalanda and Jehanabad would be included in the list or not as Gaya and Nawada have been included. These districts are more suitable to be included in the list than Gaya and Nawada. That is why I think the hon. Minister is evading the question. My second question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Second is not allowed.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: My second supplementary question is whether person nominated by hon. MPs. and MLAs would be included in the Vigilance Committees of the lower tier as vigilance committees are to be set up at various levels?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Vigilance Committee, that is, District Monitoring and Vigilance Committee has been constituted and we have sent the intimation to some States and some other States are yet to be informed. For the overall vigilance and as per your suggestions and with your cooperation we are going to interact. With the hon. Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha of all the States so that everyone could be apprised of the progress.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: State Government does not recognise Vigilance Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? I have not called you. Let us have some sense of discipline.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will not allow this. Do not make it a circus.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You must sit down. I have not allowed you, so many hon. Members wish to put supplementaries. Do not waste the time.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: That Committee has been constituted for strict vigilance at every level and a nine member Committee of the beneficiaries would be constituted which would have one scheduled castes member and one female member essentially and if a retired personnel is residing in that area then there is a provision to include him also. There was a provision for social audit but it has not been defined well but to maintain proper vigilance and transparency and to ensure that targetted people may get the benefit, provision for people's participation has also been made.

Our hon. Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have enough rights to monitor at every level. Vigilance Committees have been constituted at four levels *i.e.* Panchayat level, block level, district level and State level. It is the responsibility of the Committee to see that the money being spent in the name of the poor should reach them. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to ask the supplementary. We have heard about the criteria by which the districts have been selected. I would like to know from the Government whether the title would be a little bit relaxed to include some other parts also.

In Maharashtra, Ahmadnagar has been included into this. I thank the hon. Minister for this. But districts like Beed and Sholapur, which are more affected by drought.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Include Pandharpur also!

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: He always thinks of Pandharpur, Pandharpur is in Sholapur.

Sholapur and Beed districts have been more affected by drought. I would like to know whether some relaxation could be applied there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No whispering here.

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: If that is done, the Government of India would do justice to those districts also.

Sir, five kilograms of foodgrain is being given per day per person. If two or three persons are working in a family of five, the foodgrain, which comes to that family is around 15 kilograms. That is not enough to meet the domestic and other demands for that family. I would like to know whether some financial consideration would be given so that their financial component is raised. I would also like to know when would it be given if the Government takes a decision in this regard.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has expressed his desire to include one more district but districts have been selected on the basis of certain criteria and State Governments too were consulted. It was done with their consent ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit that. You will not be able to serve yourself or your people.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, 150 districts have been selected under this programme. Employment Guarantee Act is in the pipeline. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Such an important issue is being discussed and even the Minister is being interrupted, the Chair is being interrupted. This is such an important issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has raised the issue of foodgrains. We have to provide foodgrains as well as cash to the workers. We have made a provision that the labourers should be given wages as per the Minimum Wages Act being implemented in the State but at times, food grains are not available. So we have made a provision that if foodgrains are not available then cash would be given. Cash and foodgrains both would be provided to the labourers. The quantity of foodgrains might be increased but a minimum amount of Rs. 25 should be provided compulsorily. Apart from five kg. foodgrains, minimum wages, should also be given.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Minister has stated in his reply that a new poverty alleviation programme *i.e.* Food for Work is being launched in 150 most backward districts of the country from November, 2004. I want to ask one thing very clearly whether programmes initiated by the erstwhile governments have been discontinued or relaunched with a different name?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a misconception that a new programme is being launched after winding up any programme. The 'Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana, *i.e.* SGRY has already been implemented. Funds to the tune of Rs. 4500 crore and 50 thousand tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated for it. Besides, 'Food for Work' programme has been implemented wherein Rs. 2020 crore and 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains would be given to the poor. Ambitious and poor oriented programme like 'Food for Work' have been implemented to check the migration of the hardworking labour force of the rural areas to the urban areas in search of employment so that the development of the poor and villages may take place.

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: Just now the hon. Minister has told that they have selected 150 districts all over the country as per the criteria he has mentioned. In my constituency, Gajapathi district is the most backward district of Orissa. They have left out this district. So, I just request the Minister, through you, to include this Gajapathi district because it is coming under the criteria of most backward area which he has already mentioned, and there are more Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. Drought is also there. So I request the Minister just to include Gajapathi district.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the criteria. Are you considering his district?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, maximum districts *i.e.* 18 districts of Orissa have been identified in the country on the basis of the criteria. Hon. Member says that one of the districts has been left out. How can it be considered right now?

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: I want to know whether the allocation of fund to this scheme will adversely affect the funding of the other SGRY scheme. What is the role of Panchayati Raj institution for implementing this scheme?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: In three tier system a perspective plan has to be formulated by holding consultation at all the three levels *i.e.* District Panchayat Council, Block Panchayat Samiti and Gram Panchayat. We intend to formulate a perspective plan for the all round development of villages and implement it phasewise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Who will prepare the perspective plan?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, consultation with panchayats has to be sought and even the suggestions of experts can be sought for formulating perspective plan. An allocation of Rs. 10 lakh per district has been made for the perspective plan. The State Government have been given autonomy for implementation of the scheme.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister is very competent and is doing a commendable job. I want to congratulate him for it. However I don't know why he is so inconsiderate to Bihar. It was repeatedly mentioned in the House that the entire north Bihar is reeling under the fury of floods and the south Bihar is facing drought. As has been mentioned right now by Shri Vijoy Krishna that Patna, Aurangabad and Nalanda and also Sheohar have been facing floods. I am very happy that he did mention about these places and I would like to praise him for doing so. However I would also like to mention that western and eastern Champaran, Sitamarhi and Madhubani are facing the fury

of floods causing destruction every year. 60 percent labourers migrate to cities every year. I would like to know the reasons for not covering these areas under the scheme despite this. The hon. Minister should at least give an assurance to consider this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Say that it would be considered seriously.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, a district is chosen on the basis of definite criteria. Hon. Member is saying Bihar has been affected both by floods and drought, it is true. I personally know that flood causes destruction in Bihar every year. At least twenty districts are affected by flood as well as 20 districts by drought this year. The Union Government has provided special assistance from NCF under both the items of drought and floods. About 1 lakh 84 thousand tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated for flood affected and 2 lakh tonnes for drought affected.

I have given suggestion to the State Government that foodgrains be provided to those districts that have not been covered under the 'Food for Work' programme and have been provided assistance from NCF under the items of flood and drought. The money granted from NCF will act as the cash component for providing foodgrains so that the districts other than those covered under Food for Work programme will not face any scarcity.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Then consider it.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, if you think you have completed the answer, sit down.

Now, hon. Members, at least 50 hon. Members wish to put Supplementary questions. I am trying to pick at least one hon. Member from each party. Please cooperate. Within one hour, I cannot accommodate all 40 Members. I am trying to give every party some opportunity. If you all please put a pointed question, the hon. Minister would give a pointed reply.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Panda, why are you wasting the time of the House? Nothing would be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: The new poverty alleviation programme, the National Food-for-Work Programme which has been launched, as the hon. Minister said, from 14th November, is not a new programme. This programme has been there since 1977. I think, the hon. Minister is aware that since the day the Janata Party Government came to power, the food-for-work programme has been continuing under different names.

The basic problems which I would like to raise through you and the main problems which have been noticed in the implementation of this programme are difficulties in timely, regular and adequate supply of food grains in deficit areas, which delays payment of wages; and logistics problems in movement of food grains because that lies with the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a pointed question.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: What steps have been taken to overcome these problems?

Secondly, in addition to what my learned friend from Berhampur has stated, in Orissa, the KBK districts, which comprise eight districts, are already covered 100 per cent, sponsored by the Central Government schemes. They have included those eight districts. In that respect Orissa has not got more. Rather, more districts are lying there which satisfy the three criteria he has mentioned. So, I would like to know whether any more districts would be included after these 150 districts; and, if so, when.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether any more districts would be added. You may answer that part.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no scope of including any other district right now. Inter change of districts, if any suggested by the State Government, can be considered.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Mahtab, he has answered.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have also sent the slip.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we congratulate the Government for launching this programme. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: However, I would like to know whether the Government propose to implement this programme throughout the country and also how much expenditure is likely to be incurred on the programme and the sources from which these funds will be mobilised?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: 'Food for Work' programme is being implemented. Our Minister of Finance is sitting here. The funds for this financial year have already been utilised. Now wait for the next budget.

MR. SPEAKER: More work would be done if more allocation is made.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is a poor oriented programme and this Government is for the poor and rural India and for the hardworking rural labourer and the suppressed and it is working for their welfare.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I believe, the hon'ble Minister of Finance is suitably impressed by your eloquence.

Shri Prabhunath Singh. Please put a brief and pointed supplementary.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will ask my question in three parts (a), (b) and (c).

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You have come to the House after three days. Therefore, I am allowing you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am surprised to listen to the reply given by the hon'ble Minister as the questions used to be put up by the hon.

Minister before becoming Minister were quite different from his reply given today. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If you interrupt me, I will not be able to ask question, please do not interrupt me.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, Please come to the question.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you are all doing very well today. Please cooperate.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to know about the scheme providing employment for hundred days. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the thing. This question is related to Food for Work programme. Ramdas ji, you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Except the speech of the hon. Member whom I have called, no other Member's speech will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been assured for providing hundred days employment in this scheme and the SC population is in majority in the districts that have been selected for this. I would like to submit that the districts of Chhapra, Siwan and Gopal Ganj have Lalu ji's supporter and half of the districts are affected by flood occurring every year and rest half by the drought. Were those districts not selected by the

*Not recorded.

Government due to difference of opinion with Lalu ji? Will those districts be selected if there is no difference of opinion with him? The hon. Minister should clarify whether the Government will do partiality with the people of those districts merely on account of difference of opinion? Along with this the Government should also clarify whether there is corruption in utilisation of the fund for the scheme as the statement of Minister was published in newspapers of Bihar. If so, what action is being taken by the Government to stop such irregularities.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, reply only to the question on 'district'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the districts have not been selected on the basis of affection, altercation and love. They have been selected on the basis of certain criteria. Statewise only those 150 districts have been selected which met criteria. If he says about dispute, altercation and irregularities then. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be recorded. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: They have assured me that they would not allow any irregularities. ... (Interruptions) If they want then there will be no irregularities. So everything will function smoothly. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I want everybody's cooperation. The House should run properly. The House may run properly.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Ilyas Azmi ji, do you want to ask anything?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that while Raebareli, Unnao, Hardoi, Sitapur districts under Lucknow division have been included but why only Lucknow and Lakhimpur have been left out? What is the criteria of selection. While Lakhimpur is most backward from the point of view of development. So, I would like to know as to what is the criteria adopted by the Government for selection and what is the reason for non-inclusion of Lakhimpur? ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the hon. Member is asking about the same thing, that is criteria. You may say that you will consider it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Backwardness is the main criterion, however, it may be possible that the district would not have met the criterion so, that has not been included. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the yardstick to determine the backwardness of a district in India. In one State, they have given 18 districts and in Tamil Nadu it is only four districts. Why?

Secondly, the rice supplied is inadequate and the people who were issued coupons for the work done by the district authorities are waiting for the stock which has not reached. The backward districts like Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Thiruvarur and the districts concerning the cauvery belt have not been included in the list of backward districts. The people of Tamil Nadu eat only boiled rice and not raw rice. The supply is inadequate. I checked up with the district authorities and they have not received the stock as yet. The monitoring system of this work has not been done satisfactorily. So, what are the steps taken by the Government to monitor the system of work and what is the yardstick to determine the BPL people? There are lots of machineries involved in this instead of people for whom it is meant. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are taken to mitigate all these grievances and sufferings.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details about the criteria have been given. The reply regarding criteria has already been given. As far the second question is concerned, action is being taken in this regard. It is monitored by the District Monitoring and Vigilance Committee and may be the report in this regard has not yet reached the hon'ble Member. The report will be delivered to him within two-three days. I would like to have the cooperation of the Member in that regard. I want that it should be monitored at every level so that all the works related to the rural development could be completed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Merely asking why my district is not included will not help.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several hon'ble Members have raised objections that many backward districts have been left out. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to review the criteria for inclusion in the light of suggestions given by the hon'ble Members so that the districts which could not be included can be included in that?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in first phase 150 districts have been included. As far the districts which could not be included are concerned, the Government will explore possibility as to what can be done to include them in next year's scheme.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, a brief question and a brief answer.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply of my question has been given. Uttar Pradesh is the biggest State of the country. From the point of view of poverty too it is the poorest State as nearly seven crore people of the State are living below poverty line.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think we have covered all the points.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: As far the criteria adopted for the selection of the districts is concerned, Uttar Pradesh fared worst vis-a-vis other States. Highest number of poor persons reside in this State and also there are highest number of backward districts. However, as per the population, the least number of persons have been covered. Whether the Government propose to review the criteria and relax it so that more districts may be covered? Besides this the second part of my question is regarding the criterion of minimum daily wages. There is State-wise variation in it. While in some State minimum wage per day is Rs. 75 and in some other States it is Rs. 52 or Rs. 58 per day. I feel that it is discrimination with the poor. Whether the Government of India propose to send any guidelines to all States to bring uniformity in minimum wages to poor people all over the country.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, every State has its own minimum wages Act. According to that Act every State fix minimum wages for their labourers. In Kerala minimum wages per day is Rs. 100 while in Punjab-Haryana it is about Rs. 80-85 and in North Eastern States it is only Rs. 40-45. Every State has its own laws in this regard. It is not the responsibility of our Ministry to introduce uniform minimum wage Act, it can be done by the labour department. At least we can ensure that the minimum wages prescribed in States should be given to labourers working there. We do not want to interfere in the functioning of the states.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has said in his reply that under the 'Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana' of the then government, people living below poverty line were given 50 percent foodgrains and 50 percent cash for employment and this is being done even now. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how much foodgrains and money have been allotted under this scheme during the last six months.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: SGRY is still being implemented. We have sent around 2500 crore

rupees to the States out of 4500 crore rupees. Similarly, 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were allocated out of which almost 25 lakh tonne has been sent to the affected States. Thus, we have made all possible efforts. 'Food for Work' programme is an additional effort. It would be implemented on the basis of poverty.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, for every supplementary, the answer of the hon. Minister is 'based on the criteria'. The previous Government had extended this programme throughout the country and not restricted to any district. The answer of the hon. Minister mentions '...to generate supplementary wage employment with food security'. There is no regular employment. For example, in Andhra Pradesh, since five years we are facing drought. In our State the scheme is restricted to eight districts. What about the other districts? What about the poor people in the other districts? This scheme is not extended to them.

MR. SPEAKER: Similar question is being asked by every hon. Member. How can it be?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this is a similar question. My question to the hon. Minister through you is: will this Government extend the national food-for-work programme to other areas also not restricting to 150 districts? If you need employment, you have to provide foodgrains to cater to the needs of the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaaidu, he has answered it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: By restricting to 150 districts the Government is not providing food-for-work programme to the entire country. The previous NDA Government extended it to the whole country. Foodgrains are available in each district administration.

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not repeat it.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana has been implemented all over the country but Food for Work Programme has been launched in only selected districts. There are four months to go in this year. When the new year comes we will consider this point.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, for example. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important thing. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker, in my district and in your district, there is a need for employment. They are not providing the food grains. How can district administration meet the requirement?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaaidu, this is not a debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you wish to add anything? No.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just see how many parties are here in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, regarding this programme, DM has become the nodal agency for the scheme, as he has stated. Panchayats are not given due consideration and are not involved in consultation. I would like to know whether the Minister will change the guideline or give another guideline so that due importance is given to panchayats. There is no mention in the guidelines about the role of the elected representatives like MLAs, MPs, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answer this.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this provision is there in the guidelines and State Governments can get it implemented. Through any agency of there choice after holding consultations at all the three levels including Panchayati Raj. This provision is also there that members of Zila Panchayat would monitor it and it would be implemented with their advice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Ravichandran.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is his maiden question. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: There should be a Half-an-Hour Discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: You give notice. What do you want me to do?

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Respected Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will implement the programme taluka-wise rather than district-wise. By that, we can cover more areas.

MR. SPEAKER: You have put the question very well.

This is his maiden supplementary, you should carefully give the answer. He has asked whether you will do it *taluka*-wise instead of district-wise.*[Translation]*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be implemented in all the talukas of the districts also where it has been implemented.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: No, Sir. By that, we can select randomly more areas.

Employment Guarantee Scheme

42. ⁺ SHRI MILIND DEORA:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is implementing its promise for "Employment Guarantee Scheme";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is creating a "non-lapsable National Employment Guarantee Fund" and propose to levy job guarantee tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the State Governments are also expected to come up with their share of revenues to fund the scheme;

(f) whether existing schemes for employment would be merged in it; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (g) The proposal to enact a Central Legislation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which aims to enhance livelihood security to poor households in rural areas by providing atleast 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour, is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

SHRI MILIND DEORA: Sir, at the outset, I would like you to allow me to congratulate the Government for the scheme, which was, I think, long overdue. Coming from an urban area, from Mumbai, I think, the scheme will go a long way in not just empowering the rural economy, but actually reducing the strain on urban infrastructure, a problem lot of cities face.

Sir, initially the programme will be implemented in 150 districts and later extended to the rest of the country. How many new jobs will we be creating in the first 150 districts, and more specifically, what kind of durable assets will we be creating that can provide sustainable employment opportunities for many of the needy people in the country?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member's main question is related to Employment Guarantee Act. We are seriously considering the draft that has been prepared in this regard and we

are to introduce it in the House in the current session itself. It would be brought before the House and its implementation would depend on the opinion of the House.

The hon. Member's second question is related to Food for Work Programme. This programme is not meant for implementation in urban areas. It is for the rural areas and it is meant for poor persons and labourers in the villages. There can be a separate programme for Mumbai and it can be considered separately.

[English]

SHRI MILIND DEORA: Sir, I think, the hon. Minister misunderstood my question. I was not talking about extending the programme to Mumbai. But I would certainly like to come back to the previous question. What will happen to the Food-for-Work Programme? Will it be merged into the Employment Guarantee Scheme? Will that programme be totally scrapped or will both the programmes run concurrently?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, will these programmes run concurrently or will one of them be abolished?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Food for Work Programme would be included in the Employment Guarantee Act when it is introduced.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, what I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. Is 100 days employment a guarantee of employment for a person? Out of 365 days, you are contemplating to provide employment only for 100 days. Are you contemplating to enhance it to a minimum of 200 days or not? This is my first question to the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask only one question.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, parts (c) to (f) of the main Question were not answered by the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well. You can put only one question.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, earlier hon. Member was with us and he used to handle the correspondence work. He must have read National Common Minimum Programme. It is written right on top of the programme that we would give a guarantee of 100 days of employment to a single person from each poor family. Whatever the hon. Member is asking now is additional. Labourers can work elsewhere also but we are giving a guarantee of 100 days of employment and we have said this is the Common Minimum Programme.

So far as the issue of giving employment for 200 days is concerned. At present we can not consider it but our government sticks to the stand of giving employment for 100 days. The economists are giving their opinion as to how and when it could be made possible. But our government has courage and will power and we would enact the Act to provide employment to poor persons and implement it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pradeep Gandhi.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, these are very important issues. Luckily, they have come up during the Question Hour. Let these issues be discussed in the right manner. Shri Pradeep Gandhi, kindly put your question to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been told just now that the Food for Work Programme would be merged with it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of people throughout the country migrate either traditionally or in search of employment. The people from Chhattisgarh migrate to States like Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in search of employment. I would like to know whether the Government propose to create employment opportunities in these areas so that the migration to these areas could be checked. Whether the Government propose to enact punitive provisions to check migration. Despite if the migration continues, what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to punish the people found guilty of engaging labourers?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have not considered enacting any such

law that seeks to check the migration of people in search of employment. We have made a provision to create adequate employment opportunities in the rural areas itself so as to check migration but migration would not be checked by enacting any law in this regard.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Government propose to provide 100 day's employment for the people living in rural areas. However, the responsibility of providing employment to the educated youth lies on the shoulders of the Government also. I would like to know whether the Government propose to provide employment to 8 crore educated youth in the country within five years and if it fails to provide employment opportunity to these people, whether the Government would provide unemployment allowance of Rs. 3000 per annum to them. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance who is sitting here whether or not the Government are considering the proposal of providing unemployment allowance of Rs. 3000 per year.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This question does not arise from the Question that is before the House right now. Mr. Minister do you want to reply to his Question?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our job is to remove unemployment and we have devised a large scale programme to achieve our objective. Under the programme, unemployed youth, women and people belonging to Scheduled Castes would be provided training on large scale under the SGR scheme and it would be based on bank linkage and production of goods would be started by providing loan and subsidy through the banks and the arrangement would be made for selling these goods in the domestic as well as international markets. This would help do away with unemployment which in turn would alleviate poverty and ensure the development of rural areas and in this way India would become a leading nation in the world.

MOHD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has made it easy for me to ask my question. He has increased the scope of my query. In regard to the proposed Employment Guarantee Scheme in rural areas he has himself mentioned that unless the employment opportunities are created, this programme would not be successful. Hon. Minister of Finance is sitting beside him. If we look at the credit deposit set of banks, it would be

revealed that in every districts especially in rural areas, credit flow is not encouraging. Hon. Minister was talking about agriculture credit but there is a need to create a credit absorption capacity in rural areas for enabling those unemployed youth to work in agro based industries who are not directly engaged in agriculture directly and also to maintain credit flow. He intends to provide 100 day's employment under the Employment Guarantee Scheme. Centre is also seeking the assistance of State Government in implementing the scheme but he had promised in the Common Minimum Programme that the Union Government will provide this. This is not the Common Minimum Programme of the State Government. In original as well as supplementary question it has been asked whether he is going to create a National Employment Guarantee Fund. He did not reply to it. He has said about giving matching grants to the State Government. It is on account of this that most of the rural development schemes are not implemented there. Hon. Minister hails from Bihar and he knows that most of the State Governments are not in a position to contribute. In such a scenerio how can be give guarantee of employment even though the name of the scheme is Employment Guarantee Scheme. How do you guarantee this?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: When this Bill is presented the opinion of all the hon. Members would be sought on it. As far having consultation with the State Governments is concerned, it was decided in the co-ordination Committee that firstly it be brought in the House and later on this Bill would be referred to the Committee on your instructions and then the suggestion and opinion of the State Government will be sought. How we are passing burden to the State Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome, Mr. Ajit Jogi. Please put your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Employment Guarantee scheme has been successfully running in Maharashtra for the last several years. Hence I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether he propose to include the salient features of Employment Guarantee Scheme of Maharashtra in the EGS Act proposed to be introduced in the House. For example, if some of the villagers demand collectively from the Government to provide employment, the Government are bound to provide the employment. It has also been stated

there that permanent asset structure based work should be undertaken. A separate case has been imposed in Maharashtra for the implementation of his scheme. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether some of the salient features of the EGS Act in Maharashtra would be included in the Act proposed to be introduced in the House? I would further like to know whether the other employment oriented schemes being implemented in rural areas will be merged with the Employment Guarantee Scheme and this scheme would be extended to all the States to run it successfully on the lines of Maharashtra?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Employment Guarantee Act is in force in Maharashtra for the last several years. We have tried to learn from the problems being faced in the implementation of the said scheme. The present Bill has been prepared after intense deliberation. Hon. Members will be free to express their opinions once it is presented in the House.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, NDA Government had also promised to introduce the Employment Guarantee Scheme in this session as it was included in their priorities. It is true that the entire expenditure of this scheme will be borne by the Union Government and it is proposed to be implemented initially in 150 districts. Panchayats will play very important role in its implementation. Though this Bill is proposed to be introduced in this winter Session itself, no consultation has been held with the State Governments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he does not consider it necessary to consult with the State Governments before introducing it. If not, by when he would hold consultation with the State Governments?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Union Government is ready to hold consultation with the State Government. The Government had even fixed the date for holding deliberation with the Chief Minister of all States in order to arrive at consensus of fixing the date for its implementation and to consider over its draft but it was decided in the co-ordination Committee set up under the CMP of the UPA Government that the said Act be introduced in the same Session. If there is a need to consult the State Governments it would certainly be done.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government propose to change the present definition

of Employment under the Employment Guarantee Scheme which is to create physical infrastructure? Whether the Government propose to include the works of the persons engaged in Aanganwadi, schools, mid-day meal scheme or in various immunisation programmes in the new definition of employment as defined under the EGS? Whether the works like digging of ponds or ditches would also be provided to the women? I would like to know whether social services and works that does not fall under the definition of creation of physical infrastructure would also be included in the new definition of employment?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the draft of the Act has the scope for including every word for definition. The opinion of all the hon. Members will be sought as to what is to be added or deleted when it is introduced in the House.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us wait for the Bill.

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Does the Government have any plan to form a National Youth Fund to provide funds for employment and self-employment programmes? What are the specific programmes and projects involved in the Employment Guarantee Scheme?

MR. SPEAKER: That will come after the law is framed.

[Translation]

Is there any special programme for youth?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members should give their opinion and suggestions for providing employment to the unemployed youth or for old people when the Bill is put forth for intense deliberation.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would consider the proposal of providing employment to the landless labourers under Employment Guarantee Scheme keeping in view the fact that the landless labourers have migrated from Bihar especially from Poorvanchal areas on a large scale. 21 lakh labourers have migrated from Bihar alone that is affecting the agriculture production adversely. National Labour Commission was also set up in this regard. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government are considering the strategy to check this migration?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this law is being formulated to check this migration. When this law comes into force, the migration from villages will be checked and the people will get the employment in the villages itself.

[English]

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA: Hon. Speaker, Sir, will the Minister for Rural Development be pleased to state whether the Government is going to create a Non-Lapsable National Employment Guarantee Fund? Does the Government propose to levy job guarantee tax?

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will think about as to what provisions can be made when the Bill in this regard is introduced.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Take these as suggestions.

Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid. He is a new Member and this is his maiden question. Shri Rashid, please be specific in your question.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Tamil Nadu, many districts were reeling under drought conditions. After the UPA *sarkar* assumed power, rains have come. All the districts in the southern part of the State are still in drought. Under the food-for-work programme, work is being done with bulldozers and JCBs. I brought this to the notice of the District Collector.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: My question is, what criteria is the Government going to follow...

MR. SPEAKER: That will appear in the Bill.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Has any age criteria been fixed for the youth, men and women who are selected under the Food-for-Work Programme?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not related to Food for Work Programme.

[English]

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Why not extend the time to 150 days? This is a good scheme for the country.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that he is considering extending the time up to 365 days.

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: It will be good for the backward districts and drought-hit areas.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Say that it would be considered.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Member is asking for adults. All the men and women above 18 years would get employment under it. Besides, he has also mentioned about drought. Tamilnadu has been given assistance from NCF separately to combat the drought problem.

[English]

SHRI P. MOHAN: Firstly, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: No clarification please. You can only put a question.

SHRI P. MOHAN: Is the Food-for-Work Programme for human beings or machinery? Because at present, in Tamil Nadu, in general, and in my district, in particular under the Food for Work Programme in the daily wage allowance along with the food has been fixed at the rate of only Rs. 54.

MR. SPEAKER: This question is on Employment Guarantee Scheme.

SHRI P. MOHAN: Since the amount is very meagre, rural people are not coming forward to take up the work under this Programme. Hence, machinery is used in Tamil Nadu, in general, and in my district, in particular. This destroys the very purpose of the Food-for-Work Programme. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any proposal to increase the amount or foodgrains under this Programme.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clearly mentioned in the guidelines that neither machine nor contractor would be employed in it. It will involve labour intensive work and use of any machine will not be made there. Hon. member is complaining about the inadequate amount of minimum wage under the scheme. The fixing of the minimum wages is the work of the State Governments. We cannot do anything in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 43.

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil—not present

Shri Kirip Chaliha—not present.

Loss Making Banks

+
*44. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of public sector banks/nationalised banks which have incurred losses during each of the last two years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon alongwith the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these banks profitable and competitive in global arena;

(d) whether consolidation of banking sector can help in achieving GDP target rate; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No public sector bank has incurred losses in the last two years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The steps taken by Government to improve the functioning and profitability of the Nationalised Banks include enactment of law for effective recovery of Non-Performing Assets; deregulation of interest rates; introduction of prudential norms; reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio and Cash Reserve Ratio; and encouragement to Information Technology, Organizational Restructuring, improvement in human resource management and customer service, diversification in lines of business, etc.

(d) and (e) Consolidation would allow economics of scale in terms of footprint, manpower and other resources. Having Indian Banks of a larger size would enable them to face competition arising from internationalization of the economy. Larger size also entails better management of risk. Small and weak banks pose systemic risks with their low capital adequacy ratio and high NPAs. Consolidation is a timely response to augment efficiency which would lead to income generation and add to GDP of the country.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is a good news that no public sector bank has incurred losses in the last two years. However, it is often reported that the deposit has been declining. However, credit flow is witnessing a strong signal. Bankers are worried about loan recovery and asset growth. In such a scenario, I would like to know whether the Government is pondering over FDI inflow in the public sector banks and also whether the Government is pursuing vigorously Basel-II norms as to how to make the public sector banks competitive in the global arena.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Public sector banks have become stronger and more competitive in the last few years. Our effort is to make them even stronger and even more competitive. Various suggestions are considered from time to time to make them stronger and competitive. One of the suggestions is, of course, consolidation. But, Sir, I cannot give any final answer because these are suggestions under consideration.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering any overall reforms in the banking sector? How much amount has so far accumulated as NPAs?

Bankers are often reluctant to offer additional credit to the clients out of fear of non-recovery of loans. What is the capital-asset ratio and asset-liability ratio, which is persisting at present?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: NPAs are declining. This is not a new phenomenon. As banks have become stronger and more competitive, both the gross and net NPAs have declined in the past four or five years. We will continue to make efforts to see that NPAs are brought down.

As far as banking reform is concerned, that is a larger question. Yesterday, this was debated briefly and I promise that in the Budget Session, we will bring a

comprehensive amendment to the Banking Regulation Act. I think, these are matters under consideration. Members will have to wait for the Bill to be introduced in the Budget Session.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: What is the total sum of NPA? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: I have seen the answer laid on the Table of the House. I wish to compliment the Finance Minister for the answer given regarding steps taken to improve the performance of the banks. We are interested in improving the performance of the banks. There is one little point that bothers me. Only recently, there has been an agreement signed with employees' union to raise their wages by nearly 13.6 per cent. Whatever we read in the newspapers did not mention if this agreement had also a decision to reduce the cost of running the banks or of down-sizing the staff strength. I request the hon. Finance Minister to kindly clarify if the competitive ability of the PSU banks will be affected by this agreement. I would also like to know whether there is any proposal by the Government to reduce the staff strength and whether the unions have been consulted about bringing any improvement in the performance by reducing the staff strength.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I think, it is only fair to say that both management and the union have cooperated in bringing about this agreement. So, I compliment both the management and the union for arriving at a wage settlement for the next three years. Government does not give any direction to a bank to reduce the manpower. As part of the restructuring of a bank, if the management of the bank wishes to introduce the voluntary retirement scheme, it is free to do so. Banks have done so in the past and employees may volunteer to take advantage of that scheme. In the present wage settlement, some management issues have also been negotiated. And let me compliment the union, they have cooperated and they have also signed on the management issues. There are labour issues; there are management issues. All issues have been resolved to the satisfaction of both sides. I think, as the House, we should compliment both sides for reaching this wage settlement.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister

towards the banks in the co-operative sector. Co-operative is a system based on socialistic principles in which welfare factor is implied. Earlier co-operative banks were provided with more facilities vis-a-vis the nationalised banks and private sector banks but now it seems that these facilities are being curtailed. Hence I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government intend to promote the private sector and public sector banks by neglecting the basic tenets of cooperative in future or whether the Government propose to implement a scheme so as to support and encourage the co-operative sector?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the cooperative banking system is in a very poor state. All of us know that.

12.00 hrs.

We have provided Vaidyanathan Committee to give us the recommendations on short-term credit. The larger question of how to bring about single control system over co-operative banks is engaging the attention of the Government and the RBI. This will be part of the banking regulations reforms. But let me say that unless the State Governments gird their loins and deal with this matter, the Central Government alone cannot deal with the rather poor state of co-operative banks. The State Government must also pay attention to the state of affairs in co-operative banks.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Inflation Rate

*43. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous rise in inflation rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last two years;

(c) whether recent hike in fuel prices has pushed inflation up by 0.7% during first week of November, 2004;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to absolve the common man from increase in fuel prices and its consequent effects; and

(e) the other steps being taken by the Government to bring down the rate of inflation and to check the prices rise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The current year 2004-05 started with an inflation rate (in terms of point-to-point Wholesale Price Index) of 4.5 per cent on April 3, 2004. Since then, it had an upward trend until August 28, 2004, when it reached 8.7 per cent compared to 4.1 per cent a year ago. However, it has come down to 7.3 per cent at the 33rd week ended on November 13, 2004.

The monthly average rates of inflation in terms of the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for the last two years are given below:

Average inflation rate based on WPI (base 1993-94)

(in per cent)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Apr.	1.5	6.6	4.5
May	1.6	6.5	5.0
Jan.	2.4	5.4	6.7
July	2.8	4.6	7.6
Aug.	3.3	3.9	8.5
Sep.	3.5	4.9	7.8*
Oct.	3.1	5.1	7.3*
Nov.	3.4	5.4	—
Dec.	3.3	5.8	—
Jan.	4.2	6.5	—
Feb.	5.3	6.1	—
Mar.	6.0	4.8	—
Average	3.4	5.5	—

*Provisional.

(c) Yes, Sir. The increase in the inflation rate in the first week of November 2004 by 0.7 per cent was mainly contributed by an increase in the WPI of fuels related

group. The inflation increased from 7.1 per cent on October 30, 2004 to 7.8 per cent on November 6, 2004 as a result of an increase in the prices of petrol, diesel and LPG with effect from the midnight of November 4, 2004. Besides, as on November 6, 2004, four items viz. minerals, coal, petroleum products and metal group with weights of 17.5% in the WPI accounted for 64% of overall inflation. There has been a hardening of international prices of these commodities due to a surge of global demand. Therefore, a major part of our inflation can be said to be imported. On the other hand, despite deficient rainfall, food prices (in both primary and manufactured groups) have registered lower inflation than other items. Since food items have larger weights in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for Industrial Workers than in WPI, CPI inflation has been lower than WPI inflation. The CPI inflation stood at 4.6% in October 2004 compared with the average WPI inflation at 7.3% in October 2004.

(d) and (e) Containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the government. Anti-inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalisation of excise and import duties of essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of sensitive items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system. Specific measures taken by the government to contain inflation include the following:

- On June 15, 2004, government reduced excise duties on selected petroleum products to keep their domestic retail prices in check in the face of rising international prices of oil. Excise duty on petrol was reduced from 30 per cent to 26 per cent, that on high speed diesel from 14 per cent to 11 per cent and that on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from 16 per cent to 8 per cent.
- On August 18, 2004, government reduced further excise and customs duties on selected petroleum products. Customs duty on petrol, diesel, LPG and kerosene were reduced by 5 per cent each, while excise duty was reduced by 3 per cent each for petrol and diesel and by 4 per cent for kerosene.
- On August 20, 2004, government reduced customs duties on non-alloy steel and ships for breaking to 5 per cent from 10 and 15 per cent respectively in order to check high inflation in metals and metal products. Melting scrap of iron and steel was fully exempted from customs duty.

- To check the liquidity overhang in the system, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), on September 11, 2004, hiked the cash reserve ratio (CRR), to be maintained by banks, by 50 basis points to 5 per cent of their demand and time liabilities.
- In a bid to control the prices of edible oils and make its availability easy, the government on September 16, 2004 cut tariff values on many vegetable oils by around \$50 a metric ton.
- In its Mid-Term Review of the Annual Policy Statement for 2004-05 announced on October 26, 2004, the RBI hiked the reverse repo rate (*i.e.* the interest rate paid on bank funds placed with the RBI against government paper) by 25 basis points to 4.75 per cent.
- As there was a fall in the international prices of crude oil, oil companies reduced the prices of petrol by up to Rs. 1.26 per litre with effect from November 15, 2004.

Trade Policy Pertaining to Farm Sector

*45. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently announced its five years trade policy;

(b) if so, focus of the trade policy pertaining to farm sector in the country;

(c) the expectations with regard to country's share in the world exports on the introduction of new trade policy and the manner in which the projected target of world share is proposed to be achieved;

(d) the sectors identified for employment generation and export promotion; and

(e) the new incentives proposed for the export oriented units to boost the exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The first comprehensive, integrated Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 was announced on 31st August, 2004.

(b) The Policy has identified Agriculture as a Special Focus Initiative Sector. A number of incentives including a Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana have been included.

(c) One of the objectives of the new Foreign Trade Policy is to double the percentage share of global merchandise trade within the next five years. The objectives are proposed to be achieved by adopting strategies as outlined in chapter 1 of the Foreign Trade Policy.

(d) With a view to doubling our percentage share of global trade within 5 years and expanding employment opportunities, especially in semi urban and rural areas, certain special focus initiatives have been identified for the agriculture, handlooms, handicraft, gems & jewellery and leather sectors. Government is making concerted efforts to promote exports in these sectors by specific sectoral strategies, which shall be notified from time to time.

(e) Some of the new incentives announced for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) in the Foreign Trade Policy are:

1. EOUs shall be exempted from Service Tax in proportion to their exported goods and services.
2. EOUs shall be permitted to retain 100% of export earnings in EEFC accounts.
3. Income Tax benefits on plant and machinery shall be extended to DTA units which convert to EOUs.
4. Import of capital goods shall be on self-certification basis for EOUs.
5. For EOUs engaged in Textile & Garments manufacture, leftover materials and fabrics upto 2% of CIF value or quantity of import shall be allowed to be disposed of on payment of duty on transaction value only.
6. Minimum investment criteria shall not apply to Brass Hardware and Hand-made Jewellery EOUs (this facility already exists for Handicrafts, Agriculture, Floriculture, Aquaculture, Animal Husbandry, IT and Services sectors).

[Translation]

Self Employment in Rural Areas

*46. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIYA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to promote self employment schemes in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of funds allocated by the Government for implementing this scheme during the last two years; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to remove unnecessary barriers created by public sector banks in providing loan for self employment in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Sir, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) as an integrated programme to create self employment opportunities for the rural poor households launched with effect from 1st April, 1999 following restructuring of the erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied schemes.

(b) The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families above the poverty line by organizing them into Self Help Groups, building their capacity through training and provision of income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. The assisted families (Swarozgaris) may be individuals or Groups (Self Help Groups) from families living below the poverty line. However, the scheme lays emphasis on the Group approach and development of activity clusters by selecting about 10 key activities per block. The Programme is being implemented in rural areas of all the States/UTs (except Delhi and Chandigarh).

(c) The funds allocated for implementation of SGSY during the last two years are as under:-

Year	(Rs. in crore)
	Central Allocation
2002-2003	710.00
2003-2004	800.00

(d) A four-tier comprehensive co-ordination mechanism at Central, State, District and Block levels is in place to coordinate between different agencies responsible for

implementation of the programme. To sort out the issues relating to banks, senior executives of the banks have been made the members of the Committees at all levels.

The Central Level Coordination Committee meets once in six months to review and ensure effective implementation of the programme. The Committee also looks into the issues relating to credit assistance such as delay in sanction and disbursement of loans by the banks. In its last meeting, held on 18th June 2004, it was decided that all loan proposals sponsored by the blocks/DRDAs will be sanctioned by the banks within 15 days and not later than one month of the receipt of the proposals.

At the instance of the Ministry, instructions have been issued by RBI, NABARD and IBA to the Chief Executives/MDs of banks to monitor the scheme at their own level to achieve the targets fixed under the SGSY scheme.

[English]

Irregularities in Global Trust Bank

*47. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been failure on the part of RBI to prevent irregularities committed by the management of Global Trust Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the GTB shares manipulators had done insider trading with Mauritius based overseas corporate body that led to a loss of over Rs. 36 crore to small investors;

(d) if so, whether any enquiry has been initiated by the Government to investigate insider trading;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons;

(f) whether the Members of Parliament have requested the Government to refund of Rs. 36 crore to 20,000 small investors who bought two crore shares of GTB prior to the moratorium imposed by the RBI: and

(g) if so, the response of the Government thereto and step taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) On the basis of certain reports indicating a sudden spurt in transaction in shares of erstwhile Global Trust Bank (GTB) before the moratorium was announced on 25th July, 2004, an investigation by SEBI was ordered. Enquiry revealed that two Overseas Corporate Bodies (OCBs) namely Far East Investment Corporation Limited and European Investment Ltd. based in Mauritius, started selling their shares from 17th June, 2004. This was done after they became eligible to trade in the shares of GTB on June 12, 2004. Together, they sold 95 lakh shares till 19th July, 2004. The main findings of SEBI are:-

- (i) The analysis of the data and information of GTB scrip does not suggest that the sales by the concerned persons were based on any information about the likely announcement of moratorium by Government/RBI or the likely swap ratio and there are no evidences to suggest that they were in possession of the price sensitive information.
- (ii) During the pre-moratorium period, the purchasers were widespread and no concentrated purchases could be observed except two clients namely Suman Goyal, a resident of Ludhiana, and Ramji Mehrotra a resident of Kanpur, who purchased 599016 and 575000 shares, respectively. The analysis did not reveal any common set of purchasers and sellers during the period.
- (iii) During the post moratorium period, the purchasers and sellers were widespread and no concentrated purchased could be observed with few exceptions. No adverse findings could be observed on the above transaction. During the post moratorium period the prices of the scrip of GTB had fallen to a negligible level of about Rs. 2/-.

(f) and (g) Several representations were received from different quarters including Members of Parliament expressing concern on the fate of investors and depositors of erstwhile GTB after the moratorium was imposed. A scheme of amalgamation was notified by the Government on 13th August 2004, which clearly laid down provisions protecting the interests of shareholders and depositors. The issue has also been debated threadbare in the Lok Sabha on 01.12.2004 and necessary clarifications have been provided.

Loan to Customers in Rural Areas

*48. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the reasons for not providing loans to customers in rural areas in the country by nationalised banks;

(b) whether there is wide difference between deposits and advances in most of the nationalised banks in rural areas;

(c) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to rectify the disparity for the grant of loans/advances to the customers/farmers in rural areas through nationalized banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Public Sector Banks do lend to customers throughout the country including rural areas for various purposes including agriculture, small scale industry, Government sponsored programmes etc.

(b) and (c) As at the end of March, 2004 the total deposits and advances of Public Sector Banks in rural areas stood at Rs. 147182 crores and Rs. 63419 crores, respectively. The comparatively low level of credit deployed in rural areas is attributable to several factors including poor infrastructural facilities, low capital formation in agriculture, crash in prices of certain agricultural commodities like coffee, rubber etc. overhang of non-performing assets, poor access of rural industries to technology, markets etc.

(d) Several measures have been taken by the Government/RBI to increase institutional finance to agriculture and allied activities. These measures include implementation of Special Agriculture Credit Plan (SACP), opening of Specialized Agriculture Finance Branches, introduction of Kisan Credit Cards, mandated lending under priority sector and setting up of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) with NABARD. Besides, a new agriculture credit package has been announced by the Government on 18th June, 2004 to double the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in the next three years and to increase the flow of credit by 30 percent during 2004-05.

Textile Export

*49. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the value of textile exports during each of the last three years;

(b) the percentage of decline/increase during the above period and the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the industry has sought certain incentives from the Government to check dip in textile export due to ever-changing global scenario;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government is aware about selective clampdown of Chinese textiles import by US Administration;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether Indian exporters of textiles will be benefited by this selective clampdown; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the textile exports during the last three years *i.e.* 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 have been as given below:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Year	Textile Exports	% increase/ decrease over the previous year
April 2001-March 2002	10764.7	-10.6%
April 2002-March 2003	12412.7	15.3%
April 2003-March 2004	13159.5	6.0%

The decline during the year 2001-02 was mainly due to the general recession in the world market and stiff competition from low cost supplying countries.

(d) and (e) Suggestions have been received from time to time from the Trade for enhancing the competitiveness of Indian textile industry and accelerated growth in textile export. These suggestions *inter-alia* include reforms in labour laws, availability of adequate infrastructure facilities, reduction in transaction cost, flexibility in trade policy provisions, refund of local taxes and duties suffered on the inputs of export products, increased export incentives, providing level playing field, exemption from Income Tax, procedural changes for exporter friendly trade policy and hassle free system, etc.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The United States has established an import limit for certain textile and clothing products imported from China. The products covered include.

(i) Cotton, Wool and Man-made Fibre socks in category 332/432 and 632

(ii) Knit Fabric, Category 222

(iii) Brassieres and Other Body Supporting Garments, Category 349/649

(iv) Cotton and Man-made Fibre Dressing Gowns and Robes

The details of some of the product category and the import limits specified by US on certain categories of products from China as part of textile safeguard mechanism are as under:

Name of the product	Duration of import limit	Details of the import limit
Cotton, Wool, and Man-made Fibre Socks in category 332/432 and 632	29 October 2004- 28 October 2005	42,433,990 dozen pairs
Knit Fabric, Category 222	24 December 2003- 23 December 2004	9,664,477 kilograms
Brassieres and Other Body Supporting Garments, Category 349/649	24 December 2003- 23 December 2004	16,828,971 dozen
Cotton and Man-made Fibre Dressing Gowns and Robes	24 December 2003- 23 December 2004	4,094,382 dozen

(h) and (i) It is too early to evaluate the extent of benefits likely to accrue to Indian exporters on account of US safeguard action against import from China.

Abolition of Textile Quota Regime

*50. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to take up the matter regarding dismantling of quota regime in the international market;

(b) if so, the likely impact thereof on indigenous textile industry and the cotton growers; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the indigenous textile and cotton industry worthy to compete in the world market?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Presently, the exports of textiles to certain developed countries (e.g. US; member countries of EU; Canada) is governed by the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round negotiations of the GATT. As per ATC, these developed countries can restrain our textile and clothing exports to a certain levels till 31st December 2004. From 1st January 2005, all quotas on international textile trade would be phased out and textile sector will fully integrate into the GATT discipline of World Trade Organisation (WTO). Government's stand in the WTO has been that the quota regime in the international textile trade should be dismantled as per ATC.

(b) The liberalized trading regime would result in increased international trade in textiles thus providing greater export opportunities for the indigenous textile industry. At the same time it will expose the domestic

industry to increased competition in the international market. Similarly, the dismantling of textile quotas may also result in increased demand for cotton and provide greater market opportunities to the cotton growers. However, its likely impact on cotton growers would depend on the global supply and demand position of the cotton crop.

(c) To strengthen domestic textile industry, including cotton industry, for meeting the growing global competition, the following important announcements have been made in the Union Budget 2004-05:

- Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option.
- Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.
- Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.

Beside, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to provide an enabling environment for the Indian textile industry including cotton industry to meet the emerging global competition. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

- (ii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). The Mission comprises four Mini-Missions, which are being jointly implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Textiles. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing facilities and setting up of new market yards/improvement of existing market yards.
- (iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.
- (iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

Amount Allocated for Rural Development Schemes

*51. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount allocated and utilized for Rural Development under different Schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the target fixed and achievements made during the above period, State-wise particularly in Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh;
- (c) the schemes formulated, targets fixed and amount allocated for rural development programme during the remaining part of Tenth Five Year Plan period;
- (d) whether the Government has received any complaint regarding diversion of funds by the States;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) State-wise funds allocated and utilized under different schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development during the last three years (*i.e.* from 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) are given in Statements I, II and III enclosed.

No target is fixed for the Schemes except for Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY). A Statement showing target fixed and achievement made during the last three years (*i.e.* from 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) under Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is given in Statement-IV enclosed.

The Schemes formulated for the remaining period of the Tenth Plan period are the following:

- (a) Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- (b) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- (c) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
- (d) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- (e) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)
- (f) Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)
- (g) Swajaldhara
- (h) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)
- (i) Desert Development Programme (DDP)
- (j) Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP)
- (k) National Food for Work Programme

Government have received some reports about diversion of funds in States like Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal regarding Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), DRDA Administration and Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) during 1999 to 2002. Instructions have been issued to all concerned to strictly follow the guidelines of each scheme so that there will not be any diversion of funds.

Statement-I

State-wise Total Allocation and Funds Utilised Under Various Rural Development Schemes During 2001-2002

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State Name	Total Allocation	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	186985.17	132007.19
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10641.46	7293.73
3.	Assam	79949.18	53903.18
4.	Bihar	128131.69	84530.41
5.	Chhattisgarh	51448.93	53396.20
6.	Goa	3273.43	1861.56
7.	Gujarat	51218.77	45784.60
8.	Haryana	21984.88	23007.15
9.	Himachal Pradesh	21124.16	21131.72
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	26258.59	21022.39
11.	Jharkhand	69441.25	44410.99
12.	Karnataka	72481.56	51241.62
13.	Kerala	32768.77	28185.85
14.	Madhya Pradesh	98941.12	96807.26
15.	Maharashtra	138912.98	102257.48
16.	Manipur	7920.69	2648.19
17.	Meghalaya	9212.47	7830.64
18.	Mizoram	5563.12	4784.48
19.	Nagaland	8180.68	7141.26
20.	Orissa	79668.20	94724.14
21.	Punjab	15362.84	13752.97
22.	Rajasthan	107030.41	96575.58
23.	Sikkim	2499.31	2301.88
24.	Tamil Nadu	92779.13	91525.57
25.	Tripura	11510.61	11790.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	185825.22	156369.19

1	2	3	4
27.	Uttaranchal	25025.21	20792.80
28.	West Bengal	82777.69	58928.46
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1405.45	1233.88
30.	Chandigarh	17.60	7.13
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	584.71	148.05
32.	Daman & Diu	186.07	39.02
33.	Delhi	1202.96	796.97
34.	Lakshadweep	262.35	105.28
35.	Pondicherry	617.09	414.56
Total		1631193.75	1338752.05

Statement-II

State-wise Total Allocation and Funds Utilised Under Various Rural Development Schemes During 2002-2003

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State Name	Total Allocation	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	111023.72	118869.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	16860.35	13478.37
3.	Assam	82016.64	65248.91
4.	Bihar	142015.97	98942.49
5.	Chhattisgarh	43398.42	44971.89
6.	Goa	1672.13	257.14
7.	Gujarat	46970.06	44455.77
8.	Haryana	20563.51	24315.17
9.	Himachal Pradesh	25687.16	24678.18
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	24767.77	14950.82
11.	Jharkhand	77839.92	62706.62
12.	Karnataka	69230.12	68284.59
13.	Kerala	24562.53	23159.67

1	2	3	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	119177.35	124230.98
15.	Maharashtra	105643.58	100952.65
16.	Manipur	14356.48	2502.20
17.	Meghalaya	14419.00	8144.34
18.	Mizoram	8598.28	9094.02
19.	Nagaland	10947.92	9936.05
20.	Orissa	91365.49	154372.59
21.	Punjab	16987.15	15679.14
22.	Rajasthan	86709.76	93786.45
23.	Sikkim	5555.49	4348.45
24.	Tamil Nadu	55575.53	67611.65
25.	Tripura	13701.49	10384.84
26.	Uttar Pradesh	205376.68	202370.15
27.	Uttaranchal	27959.85	17330.58
28.	West Bengal	94889.81	82778.00
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2670.06	245.87
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1279.50	3.48
31.	Daman and Diu	1153.34	9.58
32.	Lakshadweep	630.84	29.83
33.	Pondicherry	1073.42	849.68
Total		1564679.31	1508979.87

Statement-III

State-wise Total Allocation and Funds Utilised Under Various Rural Development Schemes During 2003-2004

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	State Name	Total Allocation	Total Expenditure
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	103181.14	76071.68
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	11998.63	5517.24
3.	Assam	97196.78	73922.06

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	143262.77	100037.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	63495.49	35766.35
6.	Goa	1209.42	366.17
7.	Gujarat	46342.75	35834.42
8.	Haryana	20315.18	14005.58
9.	Himachal Pradesh	37731.70	10269.77
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	27452.95	21833.79
11.	Jharkhand	77379.49	57070.53
12.	Karnataka	68232.54	52439.77
13.	Kerala	24603.28	22418.10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	126087.08	95789.17
15.	Maharashtra	104617.50	92886.50
16.	Manipur	8636.85	1368.59
17.	Meghalaya	11050.43	6146.05
18.	Mizoram	8401.65	6324.92
19.	Nagaland	9324.07	4718.49
20.	Orissa	108412.72	87513.52
21.	Punjab	14031.37	10600.74
22.	Rajasthan	129511.39	106887.25
23.	Sikkim	5666.06	2357.59
24.	Tamil Nadu	67561.48	60065.06
25.	Tripura	12198.32	12114.32
26.	Uttar Pradesh	235976.75	176124.22
27.	Uttaranchal	21191.62	14126.39
28.	West Bengal	131724.49	66859.79
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1466.64	136.53
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	808.98	30.14
31.	Daman & Diu	662.49	0.72
32.	Lakshadweep	655.24	7.88
33.	Pondicherry	897.04	192.24
Total		1721284.29	1249802.97

Statement-IV*Physical Achievement under Indira Awaas Yojana for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04*

Sl. No.	Name of the States/ UTs	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		Annual Target	Total Achievement	Annual Target	Total Achievement	Annual Target	Total Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	94356	82228	96562	126837	109355	105295
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4440	4542	4283	3423	4718	6646
3.	Assam	99913	46817	96371	65587	106149	78752
4.	Bihar	256310	167979	262302	172524	297054	183792
5.	Chhattisgarh	16135	22996	16512	16255	18700	18302
6.	Goa	610	317	624	269	707	233
7.	Gujarat	27117	27497	27751	27053	31428	31159
8.	Haryana	9169	9814	9384	9840	10626	9175
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4056	3852	3900	3413	4416	3841
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4852	7632	4665	5749	5283	8412
11.	Jharkhand	75306	50136	77067	40482	87277	60290
12.	Karnataka	48807	43824	49948	42452	56565	49833
13.	Kerala	30245	21372	30952	32107	35052	39825
14.	Madhya Pradesh	56307	64962	57624	63691	65258	65768
15.	Maharashtra	86598	88773	88623	85970	100365	103135
16.	Manipur	5294	1538	5107	2571	5625	1666
17.	Meghalaya	7034	3953	6785	3305	7474	6485
18.	Mizoram	1689	1275	1629	1305	1794	2202
19.	Nagaland	4541	4473	4380	6698	4825	5966
20.	Orissa	75960	169488	77736	444669	88035	154205
21.	Punjab	6074	5317	6216	5651	7040	6050
22.	Rajasthan	25586	30471	26184	37592	29654	41888
23.	Sikkim	1217	1754	1175	1149	1293	2041
24.	Tamil Nadu	47383	43540	48491	62988	54915	57069
25.	Tripura	10271	10382	9907	10321	10912	15003
26.	Uttar Pradesh	172761	171944	176800	177190	200224	190950

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Uttaranchal	17944	11245	17250	11799	19536	21666
28.	West Bengal	101835	71553	104215	86709	118023	84726
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	861	858	881	532	998	671
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	452	202	462	54	524	14
31.	Daman & Diu	187	66	192	48	217	7
32.	Lakshadweep	15	15	15	5	17	14
33.	Pondicherry	427	266	438	403	495	264
Total		1293753	1171081	1314431	1548641	1484554	1355325

[Translation]

Revision of Companies Act, 1956

*52. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Companies Act, 1956 and to bring in new Companies Act in its place;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for amending the Act;

(c) whether the Government has decided to constitute a Committee after eliciting the views of Federation of Industries, professional institutions, banks and financial institutions on the concept paper for substituting the old Act with a new one in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether corporate sector would be consulted before making changes in the Companies Act;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the extent to which replacement of Companies Act would help in checking frauds committed by companies against investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) To enable an appropriate framework and institutional structure for regulation of the Corporate Sector in tune with the emerging economic scenario, encouraging good corporate governance and protection of interests of the stakeholders and investors, including small investors, Government has decided to take up a comprehensive review of the Companies Act, 1956 with a view to revising the same.

(c) to (f) With a view to ascertaining the views of various stakeholders, interested public, professionals and experts, a Concept Paper on Company Law was prepared and disseminated on the Ministry's website for 3 months. The Ministry is in the process of consultation with stakeholders on the basis of comments/suggestions received. An expert committee, comprising of representatives of industry associations, professional bodies, legal and other experts, has been constituted. Details are at Statement enclosed.

(g) The revamping of Companies Act would enable *inter-alia* strengthening of provisions relating to rights of investors/shareholders/depositors, registration, disclosures, financial reporting, directors responsibilities declarations, inspections, investigation and penalties, all of which would help in checking frauds by companies against investors.

Statement**Expert Committee**

1.	Dr. J.J. Irani	—	Chairperson
2.	Shri Z.S. Negi, Addl. Secy., M/o Law	—	Nominee of Law Ministry
3.	Shri K.N. Memani	—	Nominee of FICCI
4.	Shri Anil Agarwal	—	Nominee of ASSOCHAM
5.	Shri R. Seshasayee	—	Nominee of CII
6.	Shri R.S. Adhukia	—	Nominee of ICAI
7.	Ms. P. Malhotra	—	Nominee of ICSI
8.	Shri T.P. Ghosh, Sr. Professor (Fin.) MDI, Gurgaon	—	Nominee of ICWAI
9.	Ms. Kalpana Morparia	—	Rep. from Banks
10.	Shri R. Parthasarthy	—	Rep. of FIs
11.	Shri O.P. Vaish	—	Sr. Advocate
12.	Shri Shardul Shroff	—	Sr. Advocate
13.	Shri Jitesh Khosla, Jt. Secy., MCA	—	Member Convener

Special Invitees to the Expert Group shall include:-

1. Shri M.M.K. Sardana, Member, MRTPC
2. Shri Bhagwat Swarup, Member, Income-Tax Settlement Commission
3. Shri S. Batra, Insolvency Expert
4. Shri R.S. Loona, Executive Director (Law), SEBI
5. Representative of D/o Banking, DEA, RBI & Others as may be decided from time to time.

Strict Adherence of Guidelines Pertaining to Scrap Import

*53. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

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

(a) the quantity of steel scrap imported into the country during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) the details of the live shells recovered from the scrap imported by the importing companies all over the country during last one year;

(c) whether import procedures were violated while importing the scrap by Bhushan Steel, Ghaziabad;

(d) if so, details thereof including the reasons for blasts;

(e) the details of cases of violations of procedures examined and guilty punished;

(f) whether the Government propose to review import policy of scrap in view of the above; and

(g) if so, details thereof and the time by which the review will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S.)

ELANGO VAN): (a) to (g) Steel scrap is being imported by the Indian Steel User Industry as a raw material. Since there is a huge domestic shortage of scrap, the Steel Industry imports large quantities of scrap to meet the requirements. Recently certain cases have come to the notice of the Government wherein import of scrap containing live shells have occurred thereby causing blasts and consequently loss of human life. These imports of live shells etc. are in violation of the Foreign Trade Policy and the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulations) Act, 1992. After a series of Inter-Ministerial consultations the Government has laid down certain new guidelines and procedures for import of metallic scrap and waste. According to these procedures import of all kinds of metallic scrap and waste in unshredded, compressed or loose form will be accompanied by a pre-inspection certificate to the effect that the imported consignment does not contain any ammunition, or other explosive consignment does not contain any ammunition, or other explosive material or radio-active material irrespective of the source of such imports. Such imports will also be subject to 100% examination as per the procedures laid down by the Customs. Imports will also be restricted through 15 ports only.

The details of quantity of steel scrap imported into the country during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise is available in the Publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II (Imports)—Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library. Details of live shells recovered from the scrap during the last one year is not compiled by the Department of Commerce. As regards action taken against those found guilty of violation of the import policy, a show cause notice has been issued to M/s. Bhushan Steel, Ghaziabad.

[English]

Participation of Private Sector in EPZs and SEZs

*54. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal pending in the Ministry to encourage private parties, companies to open

and operate Export Promotion Zones and Special Economic Zones in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will boost exports in our country and enhance foreign exchange reserves;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any study is being conducted before taking such a decision; and

(f) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) All the proposals received for setting up of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments meeting the requirements contained in the Foreign Trade Policy and Handbook of Procedures have been granted approval. Wherever there are deficiencies in the proposals or any additional information is required, the promoters are advised to rectify the shortcomings and re-submit their proposal. At present, no specific proposal of any private promoter for setting up of an SEZ is pending. There is no scheme for setting up Export Promotion Zones.

(c) and (d) The SEZ scheme aims to provide an internationally competitive duty free environment for promotion of exports. Exports from the Zones during 2003-2004 were of the order of Rs. 13,853.58 crore as compared to the export of Rs. 10,056.62 crore during 2002-2003, representing a growth of 38% over the previous year.

(e) and (f) Before formulating the incentive package for SEZs, an exercise on international bench-marking of the facilities/incentives offered to SEZs in other countries was carried out. Some of the major incentives so far announced for promoting SEZs include duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZs and SEZ units; 100% income tax exemption for a block of 10 years in 15 years to the developers of SEZs; exemption from Central Sales Tax on supplies from Domestic Tariff Area to SEZs; 100% income-tax exemption to SEZ units for first 5 years, 50% for 2 years and thereafter not exceeding 50% of the ploughed back profits for next 3 years.

*[Translation]***Losses of Cooperative Banks**

*55. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the expenditure/losses of private sector and cooperative banks are increasing constantly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of banks which have suffered losses or have been closed due to excessive expenditure during the last three years;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure recovery of the amount deposited by the customers in the banks which have been closed down; and

(e) the number of private sector and cooperative banks which have disappeared with deposits of the public and the details of the action taken/proposed to be taken

by the Government against managements of these fly-by-night Banks in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The operating expenses as well as the net profit earned by the Private Sector Banks during the last three years show an increasing trend except in the case of the Centurion Bank (loss during the last three years), the Global Trust Bank (loss during the last two years) and SBI Commercial and International Bank (loss during the year 2002-03). The operating expenses of the Centurion Bank have also increased during the above period while that of Global Trust Bank and SBI Commercial and International Bank's operating expenses declined. The expenditure of scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks during the last three years has revealed no definite trend. (Rs. 5485 crores in 2001-02, Rs. 5846 crores in 2002-03 and Rs. 4846 crores in 2003-04). The number of Urban Cooperative Banks who incurred operating losses during the last three years was 220 in 2001-02, 556 in 2002-03 and 305 in 2003-04. The details of State Cooperative Banks/District Central Cooperative Banks in loss during the last 3 years are as given below:

(Rs. in Lakh)

Year	No. of SCBs under loss	Amount of Loss	No. of DCCBs	Amount of Loss
2000-01	5	1,185.34	116	53,328.46
2001-02	6	8,701.26	103	73,794.71
2002-03	5	1,457.44	118	89,163.32

No bank has been closed due to losses. However, applications for license in respect of 7 DCCBs viz. Madhepura Supal (Bihar), Daltonganj (Jharkhand), Chapra (Bihar), Sibsagar (Assam), Gonda (Uttar Pradesh), Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) and Darbhanga (Bihar) have been rejected by RBI under section 22 of B.R. Act 1949 (AACS) due to their deteriorating financial position. Banks have not suffered losses due to excessive expenditure alone. Losses have also been incurred on account of high volume of Non Performing Assets and required provisioning made against NPAs.

The number of Urban Cooperative Banks whose licenses to carry on banking business were cancelled or rejected were 35 in 2002, 21 in 2003 and 45 in 2004.

No Private Sector Bank and Cooperative Bank disappeared with deposits of Public.

*[English]***Difficulties of a Non-Plan Holder in Making Deposits with Banks/Post Offices**

*56. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Permanent Account Number (PAN) is an essential pre-requisite for opening account and making deposits with banks/post offices;

(b) if so, whether majority of people in urban as well as in rural areas, particularly in agricultural sector do not

fall in tax net and thus are not allotted the PAN due to which they are facing lot of difficulties in opening accounts and making deposits with banks/post offices;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to exempt the non-PAN holders from the requirement of PAN for opening accounts in banks/post offices to encourage saving among them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Persons not having Permanent Account Number (PAN) can also open an account/make deposits with banks/post offices by furnishing a declaration in Form No. 60 of Income Tax Rules, 1962.

(b) Persons who have agricultural income and are not in receipt of income chargeable to income-tax, are not required to obtain PAN for opening an account and making deposits with banks/post offices. Only a declaration of Form No. 61 of Income Tax Rules, 1962 has to be made by such persons. However, PAN can be allotted to any person whether or not his income is liable to tax.

(c) and (d) In view of the provisions mentioned at (a) and (b) above, having PAN is not compulsory for opening account in banks/post offices.

[Translation]

Revision of Banking Laws

*57. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to revise banking laws;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has finalised a scheme to invest money in infrastructure for agriculture or small scale industries instead of investing in Government bonds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with sectors in which money is invested?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far, Government has decided to revise or enact the following Laws relating to Banking sector:

(i) The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is being amended to validate the banking licences issued by RBI to cooperative societies registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act and to enable the deposits of small depositors of these Banks to be insured by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

(ii) The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being amended in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's order to provide defaulting borrowers a fair opportunity to represent their cases and at the same time to dissuade the borrowers from indulging in dilatory tactics so as to postpone repayment of dues.

(iii) A new legislation on Payment and Settlement Systems is proposed to provide for a legal basis to recognize clearing houses, legal sanction to netting of payments with receipts, finality of settlement, recognition of service providers and participants, clearing mode of payments and to provide explicit powers to RBI to supervise securities clearing and settlement.

(iv) A Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Law is proposed to provide necessary legislative support to the business of credit information and for regulation of credit information companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Pepper from Sri Lanka

*58. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

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

(a) the quantum and value of pepper imported during the past three years, country-wise;

(b) whether steep increase has been registered in the import of pepper from Sri Lanka to India since the exemption of Import Duty on pepper from Sri Lanka;

(c) if so, the details of import of pepper effected from Sri Lanka and also from Vietnam via Sri Lanka during the period 2001-2004, year-wise;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the fall in prices of pepper during last three years;

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

(f) the steps Government has taken to protect the interests of the indigenous producers;

(g) the details of pepper imported without custom duty or limited custom duty; and

(h) whether there is any restriction on port of import in India and the measures taken to check the import of pepper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The quantum and value of imports of black pepper imported during the last three years, country-wise is given below:

(Value in Rs. Lakhs)

Name of the Country	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
	QTY	Value	QTY	Value	QTY	Value
Vietnam	2658.0	2197.9	7013.9	4889.4	5535.0	3641.1
Sri Lanka	1240.5	1605.1	6099.0	5705.4	4915.8	3525.7
Indonesia	2010.4	1474.8	1529.7	1218.9	3384.3	2407.1
Malaysia	29.8	24.5	55.6	35.8	123.2	68.6
Thailand	2.2	6.6	124.6	59.0	99.1	50.1
Singapore	207.6	194.7	45.0	44.0	90.3	87.3
Brazil	15.0	13.3	—	—	75.0	52.6
Ecuador	—	—	—	—	56.0	37.1
Others	164.7	119.3	524.1	385.0	55.6	53.5
Total	6328.2	5636.3	15391.8	12337.5	14334.1	9923.3

(b) Yes, Sir. Import of pepper from Sri Lanka has registered a steep increase after effecting exemption of duty in import of pepper from Sri Lanka under the India—Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement.

(c) Import of pepper from Sri Lanka from 2000-01 to 2003-04:-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Lakhs)
2000-01	1759	2791
2001-02	1241	1605
2002-03	6099	5705
2003-04	4916	3526

There is no data available on import of pepper from Vietnam via Sri Lanka.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. However, the decline in domestic prices cannot be extensively attributed to duty free imports from Sri Lanka. Yearly average domestic price from 2000-01 is furnished below:-

Year	Average Domestic Price (Rs./Kg)
2000-01	174.24
2001-02	80.39
2002-03	88.32
2003-04	74.11
2004-05 (upto October 2004)	70.91
October, 2004	64.08

(f) During the 3rd Commerce Secretary level talks between India and Sri Lanka, held in August 2004, the Indian side expressed concern over the significant increase of pepper exports to India from Sri Lanka. The Sri Lankan side informed that the production statistics of pepper tallied with that of domestic consumption and export. Both sides agreed to establish a monitoring mechanism to prevent circumvention of the rules of origin.

(g) Import of pepper is allowed without customs duty under the India—Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or under the Advance Licensing Scheme for the purpose of re-export. The details of import of pepper from Sri Lanka are given at part (c) above.

(h) No Sir. There is no restriction on port of import of pepper in India. The Government has increased the customs duty on import of pepper from 35% to 70% in the Budget for the year 2002-2003. The imports of pepper are also being monitored by the DGFT as one of the Sensitive Items.

New Technology in Cashew Sector

*59. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details on the export of cash crops, particularly cashew nut and import of cashew kernels in India for each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to modernize the industry by introducing new technology;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase export of cash crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) As per information furnished by Cashew Export Promotion Council, India traditionally exports cashew kernel and imports are cashew nut. Export data of some of the cash crops including cashew kernel, for the last three years is as indicated below:

Qty: MT/Value : Rs crore

Commodity	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Cashew kernel*	98203	1788.68	104137	1933.02	100828	1804.43
Spices**	239286	1496.97	277015	1655.49	246979	1525.60
Tea**	180102	1719.22	182862	1652.06	184300	1594.55
Coffee**	176262	1094.92	184874	993.97	180440	1082.22
Tobacco**	97936	807.70	100472	1022.89	121712	1090.81

(**Source : DGCI&S) (*Source: CEPC)

Import of raw cashew nut for the last three years is as indicated below:

Year	Import of raw cashew nut	
	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crs.)
2001-02	355556	950.01
2002-03	400659	1236.60
2003-04	452398	1400.90

Source: CEPC.

(b) and (c) In order to meet requirements of international standards, the Department of Commerce

through the Cashew Export Promotion Council is implementing on a continuing basis and integrated scheme for improving cashew kernel quality which includes setting up/improving the facilities for Cashew Kernels in Value Added Form/Consumer Packs, Quality Upgradation by Process Improvement, Implementation of Internationally accepted Certification Scheme and Introduction of Flexi Pouch Vacuum Packing System. Under the scheme financial assistance is provided to cashew kernel exporters.

(d) Some of the steps proposed to increase export of cash crops include post-harvest improvement through training and infrastructure development; trade promotion;

extending support for upgradation of technology; setting up/upgradation of laboratories, accreditation of units in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)/Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)/International Standard Organisation (ISO); packaging development, printing of business brochures, business tours abroad.

Foreign Trade Policy for Textile Sector

*60. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether textile sector is a principal source of export earning for India;

(b) if so, whether the Government has not included textiles among the dynamic sector identified in the foreign trade policy document;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether following the phasing out of the Multi Fibre Agreement by the year end opens up vast potentialities;

(e) whether there is an urgent need for India to identify the lines of export in the textile sector in which it has competitive advantage;

(f) if so, whether the Government would consider inducting the textile as a part of the foreign trade policy to enhance competitiveness; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Textile exports (including handicrafts, jute and coir) currently account for 21% of our total exports.

(b) Handicrafts and handloom segments of the textile sector, among others, have been identified as Special focus Initiative in the new Foreign Trade Policy.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to a recent study by CRISIL (Commissioned by Indian Cotton Mills Federation), the

Indian textiles and apparel industry can achieve a potential size of US\$ 85 billion by 2010, of which, the domestic market potential would be US\$ 45 billion and export potential would be US\$ 40 billion. Nearly 60% of exports would comprise garments.

(f) and (g) Foreign Trade Policy has always accorded priority status to the Textile sector. This is evident from the fact that there is a separate chapter in the Handbook of Procedures Volume-II defining Input/Output Norms for 362 categories of textile and garment products. Similarly DEPB rates have been fixed for every conceivable textile and product that is being exported from the country. Moreover, handloom has been identified as one of the special Initiative Focus sectors in the Foreign Trade Policy.

Smuggling of Diamonds

461. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of diamonds are on increase now-a-days at Airports of the country;

(b) if so, whether DRI has recently arrested some persons for allegedly attempting to smuggle diamonds worth crores of rupees at IGI Airport; and

(c) if so, the details of the persons arrested with seizure made from each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) One person named Shri Anil Chanana was arrested when he was attempting to smuggle in two pairs of diamond earring, collectively valued at Rs. 1.17 crores at IGI Airport, New Delhi on 12.8.2004.

Unclaimed Money

462. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of deposits in various accounts in the nationalised banks of the country as on 30.11.2004, which has neither been withdrawn nor claimed for the last many years *i.e.* either the depositors have expired or they are missing;

(b) the manner in which this money is utilised and whether there is any provision in banks to intimate the

account holders on the addresses mentioned by them while opening the accounts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) RBI collects information on the amount of unclaimed deposits in inoperative accounts for 10 years, as at the end of each year, and not month-wise.

The total amount of money in unclaimed deposits with nationalized banks in India as on 31st December, 2003 is Rs. 504.21 crores approximately.

(b) and (c) RBI have advised banks that they should ensure that their branches follow up accounts which remain inoperative for a year or so by sending suitable advise to the customers and if the said letters are returned undelivered, they may immediately be put on enquiry to find out the whereabouts of customers or their legal heirs in case they are deceased.

As per extant guidelines of RBI, the money lying in dead saving accounts is paid to legal heir, if claimed. RBI has reported that the amount lying in dead accounts forms part of banks' liability and is deployed in normal course.

Diversion of MNCs from North-Eastern to Northern Region

463. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether consequent to the package for economic development of the North Eastern region in 1997, a large number of MNCs had taken steps for industrial investment in the North Eastern Region;

(b) whether following the launch of similar economic packages for States like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal these companies have started disinvesting and diverting to these States which are logistically and economically better placed and the intending investors are diverting their investment plans to these States;

(c) whether the Federation of Industries and Commerce and North Eastern Region has lately represented to Government for offering better and more economic terms for investment in the NE Region; and

(d) if so, their demands and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Consequent to the announcement of the new North Eastern Industrial Policy (NEIP) on 24th December, 1997 a total of 681 investment proposals have been received from MNCs and domestic industrial units, entailing a capital investment of Rs. 1067.28 crore in the North Eastern Region.

The subsequent packages of fiscal incentives announced for the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are a diluted version of the NEIP, 1997.

(c) and (d) References have been received from various quarters for offering better and more attractive economic terms for investment in the North Eastern Region by way of suitable modifications in the NEIP

Bench of Orissa High Court

464. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a proposal to set up a separate bench of Orissa High Court at Keonjhar;

(b) if so, whether the above proposal is likely to be implemented during the current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Bharat Mercantile Cooperative Bank

465. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Bharat Mercantile Cooperative Urban Bank at Somajiguda, Hyderabad, has collected crores of rupees from about 5000 depositors, but failed to repay them after the maturity;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by RBI to safeguard the interest of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Bharat Mercantile Co-operative Bank (BCMB) had mobilized deposits from depositors to the tune of Rs. 14.63 crores as on 31.03.2004, the details of which are as under:-

A.	Resident	(Rs. in crore)
	(i) Term deposit	11.36
	(ii) Saving Bank deposit	1.59
	(iii) Current deposit	0.94
B.	Non-Resident Deposit	0.13
C.	Deposits from other UCBs	0.61
Total		14.63

(c) Based on findings of the latest statutory inspection with reference to bank's financial position as on 31.03.2004 which revealed that the bank's net worth was negative, the bank was placed under section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS) with effect from September 14, 2004 prohibiting it from granting or renewing any loans and advances, make any investment, incur liability including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, disburse or agree to disburse any payment whether in discharge of its liabilities and obligations or otherwise, dispose off any of its properties or assets etc. Further, with a view to preserving the assets of the bank and to avoid preferential payment, the bank has been prohibited from paying more than Rs. 1000/- per depositor.

Amendment to Banking Regulation Act

466. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the proposed amendment to Banking Regulation Act 1949 to bring Banking Cooperatives Societies at par with Commercial Bank, will destroy the very root of the autonomy of the cooperative sector;

(b) whether it is not a fact that such amendment will encroach upon the rights of the State Government; and

(c) what steps the Government will take to set thing right, in the light of NCMP proposed on cooperatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill, 2003 was introduced in the Parliament to amend Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to give greater operational flexibility to Reserve Bank of India and to redefine its control over co-operative banks. National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) has referred to the need for making cooperatives, 'democratic and autonomous'. In view of this and the concerns expressed by certain State Governments, the Bill has been referred to the Reserve Bank of India for revisiting the proposals taking into account both the regulatory issues as well as the concerns of the Cooperative Credit Institutions.

World Bank Loan to Uttaranchal

467. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the scheme and the amount of loan for which Government of Uttaranchal have requested to World Bank;

(b) the schemes for which World Bank has so far released loan to Uttaranchal Government and the terms and conditions prescribed by the World Bank for these loans; and

(c) the amount and the interest being paid to the World Bank by the Government of Uttaranchal annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A Proposal for Uttaranchal Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project II has been posed to World Bank for assistance. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 500 crore, 80% of which is sought from World Bank.

(b) The schemes for which World Bank has so far released loan to Uttaranchal are Integrated Watershed Development Project, Rural Women Development and Empowerment Project, Uttaranchal Decentralized Watershed Development Project, Technical Assistance for Economic Reforms Project, Uttaranchal Health System Development Project, and Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme. The credit assistance from International Development Agency (IDA) is repayable in 35 years inclusive of a grace period of 10 years and carry no interest but a service charge of 0.75% per annum.

(c) Repayment of amount and commitment charge to World Bank is the liability of Government of India and not State Government.

Loan to NRIs

468. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any NRI Industrialists from Gujarat State approached for justice against Bank of Baroda to the Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard by the Government;

(c) the time likely to be taken for disbursement of loan by any bank after giving sanctioned letter to any Industrialist; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken if any Industry (NRI invited by the Government of India/State Government) deliberately closes their business due to harassment of the Financial Institution of Government like Bank of Baroda?

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

Rural Sanitation Programme

469. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Rural Sanitation Programme is being run in the country;

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

(c) the Number of districts covered under this programme, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any proposal to include the names of some more districts in near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount earmarked for this programme for 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 426 districts are covered under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) projects under the programme, as per details given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Proposals have already been received from 124 more districts, as shown in Statement-II. These districts have been sanctioned Rs. 10.00 lakh each for conducting Base Line Survey and preparing Project Implementation Plan for TSC projects.

(f) An amount of Rs. 400 crore has been earmarked for this programme for the year 2004-05.

Statement-I

State-Wise List of Total Sanitation Campaign Districts

Sl.No.	State/District
1	2
1.	Andhra Pradesh
1.	Adilabad
2.	Anantpur
3.	Chittoor
4.	Cuddapah
5.	East Godavari
6.	Guntur
7.	Karimnagar
8.	Khammam
9.	Krishna
10.	Kurnool
11.	Mahaboobnagar
12.	Medak
13.	Nalgonda
14.	Nellore
15.	Nizamabad
16.	Prakasam
17.	Rangareddy
18.	Srikakulam

1	2
19.	Visakhapatnam
20.	Vizianagaram
21.	Warangal
22.	West Godavari
2.	Arunachal Pradesh
1.	Dibang Valley
2.	Lohit
3.	Upper Subansiri
4.	West Siang
3.	Assam
1.	Cachar
2.	Dhubri
3.	Dibrugarh
4.	Goalpara
5.	Hailakandi
6.	Jorhat
7.	Kamrup
8.	Karbi Anglong
9.	Karimganj
10.	Lakhimpur
11.	Morigaon
12.	Nalbari
13.	Sibsagar
14.	Sonitpur
4.	Bihar
1.	Araria
2.	Banka
3.	Begusarai
4.	Bhagalpur
5.	Champaran (E)

1	2
6.	Darbhanga
7.	Gaya
8.	Katihar
9.	Madhubani
10.	Muzaffarpur
11.	Nalanda
12.	Patna
13.	Samastipur
14.	Saran
15.	Sitamarhi
16.	Vaishali
5.	Chhattisgarh
1.	Bilaspur
2.	Dantewada
3.	Durg
4.	Mahasamund
5.	Raipur
6.	Rajnandgaon
6.	D & N Haveli
1.	Dadra & N. Haveli
7.	Goa
1.	North Goa
8.	Gujarat
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Amreli
3.	Anand
4.	Banaskantha
5.	Bharuch
6.	Bhavnagar
7.	Dahod

1	2
8.	Dangs
9.	Gandhinagar
10.	Jamnagar
11.	Junagadh
12.	Kheda
13.	Kutch
14.	Mehsana
15.	Narmada
16.	Narmda Vadodara
17.	Navsari
18.	Panchmahals
19.	Rajkot
20.	Sabarkantha
21.	Surendranagar
22.	Valsad
9.	Haryana
1.	Ambala
2.	Bhiwani
3.	Fatehabad
4.	Gurgaon
5.	Hisar
6.	Jhajjar
7.	Jind
8.	Kaithal
9.	Karnal
10.	Kurukshetra
11.	Mohindergarh
12.	Panchkula
13.	Panipat
14.	Rewari

1	2
15.	Rohtak
16.	Sirsa
17.	Sonipat
18.	Yamunanagar
10.	Himachal Pradesh
1.	Hamirpur
2.	Kangra
3.	Kinnaur
4.	Kullu
5.	Sirmour
6.	Solan
7.	Una
11.	Jammu & Kashmir
1.	Anantnag
2.	Baramulla
3.	Budgam
4.	Doda
5.	Jammu
6.	Kargil
7.	Kathua
8.	Kupwara
9.	Leh
10.	Poonch
11.	Pulwama
12.	Rajouri
13.	Srinagar
14.	Udhampur
12.	Jharkhand
1.	Bokaro
2.	Dhanbad

1	2
3.	Dumka
4.	East Singhbhum
5.	Hazaribagh
6.	Ranchi
13.	Karnataka
1.	Bellary
2.	Mangalore
3.	Mysore
14.	Kerala
1.	Alappuzha
2.	Ernakulam
3.	Idukki
4.	Kannur
5.	Kasargode
6.	Kollam
7.	Kozhikode
8.	Malappuram
9.	Palakkad
10.	Pathanamthitta
11.	Thiruvananthapuram
12.	Trissur
13.	Wayanad
15.	Madhya Pradesh
1.	Balaghat
2.	Barwani
3.	Betul
4.	Bhind
5.	Bhopal
6.	Chhatarpur
7.	Chhindwara

1	2
8.	Damoh
9.	Datia
10.	Dewas
11.	Dhar
12.	Dindori
13.	Guna
14.	Gwalior
15.	Harda
16.	Hoshangabad
17.	Indore
18.	Jabalpur
19.	Jhabua
20.	Katni
21.	Khandwa
22.	Khargaon
23.	Mandla
24.	Mandsaur
25.	Morena
26.	Narsinghpur
27.	Nimach
28.	Panna
29.	Raisen
30.	Rajgarh
31.	Ratlam
32.	Rewa
33.	Sagar
34.	Satna
35.	Sehore
36.	Seoni
37.	Shahdol

1	2
38.	Shajapur
39.	Sheopur
40.	Shivpuri
41.	Sidhi
42.	Tikamgarh
43.	Ujjain
44.	Umaria
45.	Vidisha
16.	Maharashtra
1.	Ahmednagar
2.	Akola
3.	Amravati
4.	Aurangabad
5.	Beed
6.	Bhandara
7.	Buldhana
8.	Chandrapur
9.	Dhule
10.	Gadchiroli
11.	Gondia (Gr. Bombay)
12.	Hingoli
13.	Jal Gaon
14.	Jalna
15.	Kolhapur
16.	Latur
17.	Nagpur
18.	Nanded
19.	Nandurbar
20.	Nashik
21.	Oshmanabad

1	2
22.	Parbhani
23.	Pune
24.	Raigad
25.	Ratnagiri
26.	Sangli
27.	Satara
28.	Sindhudurg
29.	Solapur
30.	Thane
31.	Wardha
32.	Washim
33.	Yavatmal
17.	Manipur
1.	Bishnupur
2.	Imphal East
3.	Imphal West
4.	Thoubal
18.	Meghalaya
1.	East Khasi Hills
2.	West Garo Hills
19.	Mizoram
1.	Mamit
2.	Saiha
20.	Nagaland
1.	Dimapur
2.	Kohima
3.	Mokokchung
4.	Zunheboto
21.	Orissa
1.	Angul

1	2
2.	Balasore
3.	Bhadrak
4.	Bolangir
5.	Cuttack
6.	Gajapati
7.	Ganjam
8.	Jagatsinghpur
9.	Jajpur
10.	Kalahandi
11.	Kandhamala
12.	Kendrapara
13.	Keonjhar
14.	Khurda
15.	Koraput
16.	Malkangiri
17.	Mayurbhanj
18.	Nawapara
19.	Nawarangpur
20.	Nayagarh
21.	Puri
22.	Rayagada
23.	Sonepur
24.	Sundargarh
22.	Pondicherry
1.	Pondicherry
23.	Punjab
1.	Amritsar
2.	Bhatinda
3.	Faridkot
4.	Fatehgarh Sahib

1	2
5.	Gurdaspur
6.	Hoshiarpur
7.	Jalandhar
8.	Kapurthala
9.	Moga
10.	Muksar
11.	Nawan Shehar
12.	Patiala
13.	Roop Nagar
14.	Sangrur
24.	Rajasthan
1.	Ajmer
2.	Alwar
3.	Barmer
4.	Bikaner
5.	Bundi
6.	Jaipur
7.	Jhalawar
8.	Kota
9.	Rajsamand
10.	Sawai Madhopur
11.	Sikar
25.	Sikkim
1.	East Sikkim
2.	North Sikkim
3.	South Sikkim
4.	West Sikkim
26.	Tamil Nadu
1.	Coimbatore
2.	Cuddalore

1	2
3.	Dharmapuri
4.	Dindigul
5.	Erode
6.	Kancheepuram
7.	Kanniyakumari
8.	Karur
9.	Madurai
10.	Nagapattinam
11.	Namakkal
12.	Nilgiris
13.	Perambalur
14.	Pudukottai
15.	Ramanathapuram
16.	Salem
17.	Sivaganga
18.	Thanjavur
19.	Theni
20.	Thoothukudi
21.	Tiruchirapalli
22.	Tirunelveli
23.	Tiruvallur
24.	Tiruvannamalai
25.	Tiruvarur
26.	Vellore
27.	Villupuram
28.	Virudunagar
27.	Tripura
1.	Dhalai
2.	North Tripura
3.	South Tripura

1	2
4.	West Tripura
28.	Uttar Pradesh
1.	Agra
2.	Aligarh
3.	Allahabad
4.	Ambedkar Nagar
5.	Aurriya
6.	Azamgarh
7.	Badaun
8.	Bagpat
9.	Bahraich
10.	Balia
11.	Balrampur
12.	Banda
13.	Barabanki
14.	Bareilly
15.	Basti
16.	Bijnour
17.	Bulandshahar
18.	Chandouli
19.	Chitrakoot
20.	Deoriya
21.	Etah
22.	Etawah
23.	Faizabad
24.	Farrukhabad
25.	Fatehpur
26.	Firozabad
27.	Gautam Budh Nagar
28.	Ghaziabad

1	2
29.	Ghazipur
30.	Gonda
31.	Gorakhpur
32.	Hardoi
33.	J.R. Phule Nagar
34.	Jalaun
35.	Jaunpur
36.	Jhansi
37.	Kannauj
38.	Kanpur Nagar
39.	Kanpur Dehat
40.	Koshambhi
41.	Kushinagar
42.	Lakhimpur Kheri
43.	Lalitpur
44.	Lucknow
45.	M.M. Nagar (Hathras)
46.	Mahoba
47.	Maharajganj
48.	Mainpuri
49.	Mathura
50.	Mau
51.	Meerut
52.	Mirzapur
53.	Moradabad
54.	Muzaffarnagar
55.	Pilibhit
56.	Pratapgarh
57.	Rai Bareli
58.	Rampur

1	2
59.	S.R. Nagar Bhadohi
60.	Saharanpur
61.	Sant Kabir Nagar
62.	Sarawasti
63.	Shahjahanpur
64.	Sidharth Nagar
65.	Sitapur
66.	Sonbhadra
67.	Sultanpur
68.	Unnao
69.	Varanasi
29.	Uttaranchal
1.	Almora
2.	Bageshwar
3.	Chamoli
4.	Champawat
5.	Dehradun
6.	Haridwar
7.	Nainital
8.	Pauri
9.	Pithoragarh
10.	Rudraprayag
11.	Tehri Garhwal
12.	Udhamsingh Nagar
13.	Uttarkashi
30.	West Bengal •
1.	24 Parganas North
2.	24 Parganas South
3.	Bankura
4.	Birbhum

1	2
5.	Burdwan
6.	Cooch Behar
7.	Dakshin Dinajpur
8.	Hooghly
9.	Howrah
10.	Jalpaiguri
11.	Malda
12.	Midnapur East
13.	Midnapur West
14.	Murshidabad
15.	Nadia
16.	Purulia
17.	Siliguri
18.	Uttar Dinajpur
Total District-426	

Statement-II*The Districts which are Preparing TSC Project Reports*

Sl.No.	State/District
1	2
1.	Arunachal Pradesh
1.	Changlang
2.	East Kameng
3.	East Siang
4.	Lower Subansiri
5.	Papum Pare
6.	Tawang
7.	Tirap
8.	Upper Siang
9.	West Kameng

1	2
2.	Assam
1.	Barpeta
2.	Bongaigaon
3.	Darrang
4.	Dhemaji
5.	Golaghar
6.	Kokrajhar
7.	N.C. Hills
8.	Nagaon
9.	Tinsukia
3.	Biher
1.	Arwal
2.	Aurangabad
3.	Bhabhua
4.	Bhojpur
5.	Buxar
6.	Champan (W)
7.	Jamui
8.	Jehanabad
9.	Rohtas
10.	Saharsa
11.	Siwan
12.	Supaul
4.	Chhattisgarh
1.	Damtari
2.	Jagdelpur
3.	Janjgir
4.	Jashpur
5.	Kabirdham
6.	Kanker

1	2
7.	Korba
8.	Koria
9.	Raigarh
10.	Surguja
5.	Goa
1.	South Goa
6.	Gujarat
1.	Patan
2.	Porbandar
7.	Himachal Pradesh
1.	Bilaspur
2.	Chamba
3.	Lahaul & Spiti
4.	Shimla
8.	Jharkhand
1.	Chatra
2.	Deogarh
3.	Garhwa
4.	Girdih
5.	Godda
6.	Gumla
7.	Jamtara
8.	Koderma
9.	Latehar
10.	Lohardaga
11.	Pakaur
12.	Palamau
13.	Sahibganj
14.	Saraikela
15.	Simdega

1	2
16.	West Singhbhum
9.	Karnataka
1.	Bagalkote
2.	Bangalore Rural
3.	Bangalore Urban
4.	Belgaum
5.	Bidar
6.	Bijapur
7.	Chamaraja Nagar
8.	Chickmagalur
9.	Chitradurga
10.	Davanagere
11.	Dharwad
12.	Gadag
13.	Gulbarga
14.	Hasan
15.	Haveri
16.	Kodagu
17.	Kolar
18.	Koppal
19.	Mandya
20.	Raichur
21.	Shimoga
22.	Tumkur
23.	Udupi
24.	Uttara Kannada
10.	Mizoram
1.	Aizwal
2.	Champhai
3.	Kolasib

1	2
4.	Lawngtlai
5.	Lunglei
6.	Serchhip
11.	Nagaland
1.	Mon
12.	Orissa
1.	Bargarh
2.	Boudh
3.	Deogarh
4.	Dhenkanal
5.	Jharsuguda
6.	Sambalpur
13.	Punjab
1.	Ferozepur
2.	Ludhiana
3.	Mansa
14.	Rajasthan
1.	Banswara
2.	Baran
3.	Bharatpur
4.	Bhilwara
5.	Chittorgarh
6.	Churu
7.	Dausa
8.	Dholpur
9.	Dungarpur
10.	Ganganagar
11.	Hanumangarh
12.	Jaisalmer
13.	Jalore

1	2
14.	Jhunjhunu
15.	Jodhpur
16.	Karauli
17.	Nagaur
18.	Pali
19.	Sirohi
20.	Tonk
21.	Udaipur
Total District-124	

Enactment of Tobacco Control Act

470. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently enacted the Tobacco Control Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is altering production limit in tobacco/cigarette sector of the domestic units to discourage consumption of tobacco product;

(d) if so, whether Government has permitted import of tobacco products in the country under OGL;

(e) the Government policy regarding FDI in this sector including that for a trading company;

(f) whether the Government policy is contradictory, as one side domestic manufacturers are confined to a particular limit of production whereas on the other side import is being permitted; and

(g) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 was enacted in May 2003 for discouraging the use of cigarettes and other tobacco

products. Important provisions of the Act applicable to the whole country are:

- (i) Prohibition of smoking in a public place.
- (ii) Prohibition of direct and indirect advertisement of all tobacco products.
- (iii) Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products to a person below the age of eighteen years.
- (iv) Prohibition of sale of all tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions.
- (v) Mandatory depiction of statutory warnings (including pictorial warnings) on tobacco packs.
- (vi) Mandatory depiction of tar and nicotine contents along with maximum permissible limits on tobacco packs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) to (g) The Government policy does not permit foreign direct investment in tobacco/Cigarette sector. Cigars and Cigarettes of tobacco and manufactured tobacco substitutes are included in the list of industries for which industrial licensing is compulsory under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. 100% FDI is permitted in case of trading companies for export, bulk imports with expanded warehouse sales and cash and carry wholesale trading etc. No FDI is, however, allowed in retail trading. Tobacco and tobacco products are freely importable.

Smuggling of Arms

471. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large scale arms smuggling is taking place from Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Available intelligence and seizures of arms effected by Customs formations do not indicate any large scale smuggling of arms from Bangladesh.

(b) Nil in view of (a) above.

(c) All Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling of contraband items including arms and ammunition.

Production of Handloom and Handicraft Items

472. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of handloom and handicraft items has increased during last three years;

(b) if so, the year-wise details of the quantum of handloom and handicraft items produced in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to promote handloom and handicraft industry in the country especially in Jammu & Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The handlooms and handicrafts sector are highly decentralized and it is difficult to collect accurate data on production. However, in the case of handloom sector the Office of the Textiles Commissioner estimates the quantum of production of handloom cloth from the delivery of hank yarn in the domestic market. According to these estimates the production of handloom cloth was 7585 million sq. meters in 2001-02, 5980 million sq. meters in 2002-03 and 5518 (P) million sq. meters in 2003-04. One of the factors may be the fiscal changes made by the Ministry of Finance in the textile sector, for example imposition of excise duty on hank yarn. During the current year this has been withdrawn and therefore the trends in production may again change during the next two years.

However, the export figures have been increasing for both handlooms and handicrafts items in the last 3 years as follows:

Exports of Handlooms and Handicrafts

Year	Handlooms (Rs. in crore)	Handicrafts (Rs. in crore)
2001-2002	2064.94	9205.63
2002-2003	2633.27	10933.67
2003-2004	N.A.*	12765.18

(c) The Government of India is implementing various schemes to promote handloom industry in the country including Jammu & Kashmir. The details of the scheme being implemented are as under:-

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothsaan Yojana
2. Handloom Export Scheme
3. Marketing Promotion Programme
4. Design Development & Training Programme
5. Integrated Handloom Training Programme
6. Mill Gate Price Scheme
7. Workshed cum Housing Scheme
8. Weavers Welfare Scheme
9. Bunkar Bima Yojana
10. Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985
11. 10% Rebate on Handloom products

The steps taken for development and promotion of handicraft sector in the country include: implementation of schemes for Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research and Development etc. Integrated development of craft clusters is also being taken up by organizing the artisans into Self Help Groups under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY).

In addition, a Special Economic Package has been announced for the State of Jammu & Kashmir which includes the following projects:

- (a) Setting up of a Weavers' Service Centre in Jammu & Kashmir
- (b) Integrated Wool and Woollen Tweed Development Project
- (c) Integrated Development for promotion of export of Carpet and Handicrafts.

[*Separate export data for handloom products from the year 2003-04 onwards is not available due to absence of separate ITC (HS) Codes for the handloom products.]

PMGSY

473. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total length of roads constructed under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana since the inception of the scheme, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the budget released for this purpose in the year 2004-05, State-wise;

(c) whether its implementation has been delayed; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the steps to prevent further cost over-run?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) A statement indicating State-wise details of the length of roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the years from 2000-01 to 2004-05 and the amount released in the year 2004-05 is enclosed. Road works relating to 2003-04 and 2004-05 are at various stages of execution since 9-12 months time is given from date of award of work.

(b) Proposals valued at Rs. 14,789.00 crore have been cleared so far. Funds are released subject to

expenditure of earlier released funds. During 2004-05 to date, Rs. 524.00 crore has been released to six States eligible for release.

(c) and (d) As per PMGSY guidelines, road works are to be completed within 9-12 months from award. 94% of 2000-01 road works and 78% of 2001-03 road

works have been completed. Balance road works are at various stages of implementation. States have reported delays on account of nonavailability of land, forest clearance, court cases etc. States are required to complete road works as quickly as possible and take action as per terms of the contract.

Statement

State-wise length of roads constructed under PMGSY since inception and amount released in 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	Length of roads constructed upto October, 2004 (in kms.)					2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	
		2000-01	2001-02 & 2002-03*	2003-04	2004-05	Total	Proposals cleared	Amount released**
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3384.00	3280.00	0.00	—	6664.00	NR	18.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	317.97	678.45	0.00	—	996.42	NR	—
3.	Assam	176.68	497.33	0.00	0.00	674.01	244.46	52.07
4.	Bihar++	413.00	211.02	0.00	—	624.02	NR	#4.43
5.	Chhattisgarh	871.56	1010.61	267.63	—	2149.80	412.59	0.00
6.	Goa	156.86	0.00	+++	0.00	156.86	1.08	0.00
7.	Gujarat	467.84	928.85	27.80	0.00	1424.49	45.59	0.00
8.	Haryana	374.31	335.41	0.00	0.00	709.72	40.22	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	525.60	711.96	0.00	—	1237.56	NR	12.65
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	53.81	8.88	0.00	—	62.89	NR	20.00
11.	Jharkhand	634.47	408.58	0.00	—	1043.05	NR	—
12.	Karnataka	1639.89	2348.69	0.00	—	3988.58	NR	—
13.	Kerala	81.61	193.80	0.00	—	275.41	NR	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1585.60	3388.00	937.80	9.70	5921.10	736.59	0.00
15.	Maharashtra++	1518.45	1332.87	0.00	0.00	2851.32	143.16	0.00
16.	Manipur+	NA	NA	+++	—	NA	NR	—
17.	Meghalaya++	468.81	94.90	+++	—	563.71	NR	—
18.	Mizoram	180.43	265.50	227.48	0.00	673.41	92.79	0.00
19.	Nagaland	870.00	318.37	5.24	0.00	1193.61	37.51	0.00
20.	Orissa	998.38	1304.47	11.88	—	2314.73	NR	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
21.	Punjab	166.24	449.43	31.22	—	646.89	NR	—
22.	Rajasthan	1549.82	2376.08	4776.18	44.23	8746.31	302.81	***415.90
23.	Sikkim++	1089.00	183.06	0.00	—	1272.06	NR	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	1442.12	757.28	33.31	0.00	2232.71	117.91	0.00
25.	Tripura	413.61	3.00	+++	—	416.61	NR	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	8213.00	2368.63	0.00	—	10581.63	NR	—
27.	Uttaranchal	284.01	101.77	0.00	—	385.78	NR	—
28.	West Bengal	793.94	823.41	29.50	—	1646.85	NR	—
Grand Total		28671.01	24380.35	6348.04	53.93	59453.33	2174.71	524.02

*Road works for both years work cleared together, in 2001-02 itself.

**Releases are subject to expenditure of previously released amounts. Release during a year may also relate to road works cleared in an earlier year.

***This includes Rs. 134.50 crore for World Bank Projects.

#To Central Agencies.

NR - Not Received.

NA - Not Available.

+Figures upto September, 03.

++Figures upto August, 04.

+++Proposals is 2003-04 yet to be received.

Senior Citizens Saving Schemes

474. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Government to allow designated public sector banks to accept deposits under Senior Citizens Saving Scheme (SCSS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to operationalise the SCSS through certain public sector banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. Government have received representation from Association of Senior Citizens requesting the Government to allow senior citizens to deposit their money in banks and to get interest rate at par with Post Offices.

(c) to (e) Reserve Bank of India have reported that Senior Citizens Saving Scheme, 2004 (SCSS) has been made operative through the designated branches of 23 Public Sector Banks which are operating PPF Scheme, 1968. As per the Scheme, the agency banks were advised to launch the SCSS, 2004 not later than 1st November, 2004.

[Translation]

Scheme Challenging WTO

475. SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is formulating a scheme to meet the challenges posed by World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has consulted various State Governments in the country in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) India is a founding Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT). The Doha Ministerial Conference of WTO mandated negotiations on a number of issues including Agriculture, Services and Non-Agricultural Market Access. As part of the ongoing negotiations, India has been able to safeguard its interest through the articulation of our viewpoint in the various negotiating groups as also through issue based coalition building with other WTO Members, as reflected in the Framework Agreement that was adopted on 1st August, 2004. The stake holders, including State Governments, Industry and Trade Associations etc. are being consulted on a regular basis, while formulating our strategy in WTO. The State Governments are kept informed of the developments in WTO on major issues and their views sought. Meetings of Chief Secretaries of States and Union Territories are also convened from time to time to discuss important issues.

[English]

Ban from Depositing their Savings to Small Savings

476. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for banning cooperative banks from depositing their saving to small saving securities;

(b) whether the Government has received representation demanding the lifting of this ban; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The

information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import Duty on Non-Ferrous Metal

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry on the import duty imposed on them;

(b) whether the Government have examined their representation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to help the Non-Ferrous Metal Industry from the negative impact of reduction of import duty without corresponding reduction in import duty on raw material like lead concentrate, Copper concentrate and Zinc concentrate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have received certain representations requesting, *inter alia*, that the import duty on non-ferrous metals should be restored to the rate prevailing before 2004-05 budget. The representations also seek import duty exemption on concentrates of the non-ferrous metals.

(b) and (c) The representations will be examined as part of the 2005-06 budget proposals.

[Translation]

Impact of Lower DEPB on Exports

478. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lowering of Duty Entitlement Pass Book rate has any impact on export;

(b) whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantity of items like handicrafts, handlooms silk and other garments exported during the last two years alongwith the value thereof, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S.

ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB) is an Export Promotion Scheme administered under the Foreign Trade Policy and neutralises the incidence of Customs duty on the import content of the export product. The quantum of exports depend on many factors and DEPB is just one of such factors. No study has been conducted by the Department of Commerce in this regard.

(d) Details of quantity and value of items like handicrafts, silk that includes handloom silk and other garments exported during the last two years are contained in the publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India Vol. I (Exports)-Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.

[English]

Funds for Commonwealth Games, 2010

479. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to sanction sufficient funds to the Government of Delhi to augment financial position for infrastructure facility including construction of Stadia, etc. for Commonwealth Games (2010) is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds likely to be provided thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A Core Group of Ministers under the Chairmanship of Minister, Human Resource Development has been constituted to co-ordinate the work relating to the organization and conduct of the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

[Translation]

Housing Loan

480. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banks and Financial Institutions have fixed some targets regarding housing loan during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to issue instructions to banks to increase the rate of interest on housing loan;

(d) if so, the details thereof and its impact on the target of loan;

(e) the total number of cases of fraud regarding housing loan in banks, detected during the last two years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the target of housing loans and check frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), no target has been fixed for housing loans for banks/financial institutions during the current year. Banks are free to allocate finances for housing based on their own appraisal and loan policies, as approved by their respective Boards. However under the Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS), the Government have fixed an indicative target of 2.50 lakh dwelling units for the current year *i.e.* 2004-05.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The number of frauds in housing loans in commercial banks and Primary (Urban) Cooperative Banks during the last two years and upto June 2004 are as under:

S.No.	Year	Number of Frauds	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
1.	2002	236	28.33
2.	2003	456	69.05
3.	2004 (upto June 2004)	380	49.82

(f) The National Housing Bank (NHB) has communicated to all banks/housing finance companies/cooperative sector institutions, the break-up of the target

fixed under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS). These disaggregated targets are monitored by NHB on a quarterly basis. RBI has taken several steps to counter the menace of frauds in home loans which, *inter-alia*, include:

- (i) Requesting all State Governments to bring certain progressive measures such as marking the encumbrance of the banks on the mortgaged properties with the Registrar of assurances by payment of a nominal fee as this measure will go a long way in arresting creation of mortgages by the fraudsters;
- (ii) Cautioning the banks from time to time against fraudsters and their modus operandi. RBI issued circulars to banks in May, 2002, October, 2003 and September, 2004 suggesting series of measures for checking frauds in Housing sector loans;
- (iii) Monitoring the fraud cases involving Rs. 1 crore and above on quarterly basis;
- (iv) Issuing of caution advises to banks in respect of fraud cases involving builders/unscrupulous borrowers;
- (v) Advising banks to carry out field level inspections at branches having large exposure to home loans;
- (vi) Calling the bank officials for discussions on different issues relating to housing loan frauds and to impart them knowledge about the preventive steps to be taken;
- (vii) Lodging of complaints, wherever necessary, with the local police or CBI or in the courts of law in cases of fraud to deter people and employees from indulging in such activities.

BPL Families

481. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number and percentage of families living below poverty line in each State of the country as on date with special reference to Jharkhand and Bihar;

(b) the total number of families out of them in the country especially in Jharkhand and Bihar, which have been provided assistance under various poverty alleviation schemes during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any other schemes to provide benefit to such families; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The total number and the percentage of rural families living below the poverty line in each State of the country including Bihar and Jharkhand is estimated by the Planning Commission in 1999-2000 is at Statement-I.

(b) The State-wise details of beneficiaries under the major poverty alleviation Schemes of the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years including those for Jharkhand and Bihar is at Statement-II.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development have launched a new Scheme namely National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP) to provide resources apart from the resources available under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) to 150 most backward districts of the country for generation of supplementary wage employment and providing of food-security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The NFFWP will be open to all rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual and unskilled work. The programme will be self-targeting in nature, and will be implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Foodgrains will be provided to the States free of cost.

Other Schemes of the Ministry which benefit the rural poor are the Watershed Development programmes, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the Swajaldhara and the Total Sanitation Campaign.

Statement-I

Number and Percentage of Rural Population of Below Poverty Line by States—1999-2000 (As per Planning Commission's Estimates)

Sl.No.	States	Rural Population	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04
4.	Bihar*	376.51	44.30
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.97	3.97
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh**	217.32	37.06
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04

1	2	3	4
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74
21.	Sikkim	2.0	40.04
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04
24.	Uttar Pradesh***	412.01	31.22
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.58	20.55
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57
29.	Daman & Diu	0.01	1.35
30.	Delhi	0.07	0.40
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55
Total		1932.42	27.09

*Includes Jharkhand State.

**Includes Chhattisgarh State.

***Includes Uttaranchal State.

Statement-II

Physical Achievement under SGRY, SGSY and IAY for the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	SGRY-i			SGRY-II		SGSY			IAY		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04*	2001-02	2002-03	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	159.45	190.91	445.55	143.94	201.18	57829	52116	64352	82228	126837	105295
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.84	12.99	18.42	8.57	3.63	313	187	262	4542	3423	6750
3.	Assam	200.88	304.09	637.2	206.71	227.65	9721	45133	44678	46817	65587	78752

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
4.	Bihar	138.13	238.19	421.76	233.19	204.25	44928	20256	16225	167979	172524	183792
5.	Chhattisgarh	299.00	277.16	308.55	76.09	100.52	3902	5251	5278	22996	16255	18302
6.	Goa	0.11	0.00	0.49	1.86	0.68	577	134	59	317	268	233
7.	Gujarat	30.42	113.91	323.19	39.32	87.49	4028	4632	5506	27497	27053	31189
8.	Haryana	57.94	58.28	68.87	48.84	60.9	2440	5375	8174	9814	9840	9175
9.	Himachal Pradesh	11.91	13.49	39.06	13.90	8.25	5503	3671	5733	3852	3413	3841
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.34	28.13	47.89	21.51	18.97	9386	6391	2666	7632	5749	8412
11.	Jharkhand	121.37	141.38	386.05	149.00	142.48	24935	13521	26517	50136	40482	60290
12.	Karnataka	142.40	243.47	566.07	140.79	276.13	29852	27832	37305	43824	42452	49833
13.	Kerala	33.11	36.33	100.86	31.71	34.62	8583	10488	13736	21372	32107	39825
14.	Madhya Pradesh	225.82	270.62	585.21	242.52	260.9	18788	24804	35350	64962	63691	65768
15.	Maharashtra	217.08	239.08	630.96	229.39	251.3	25357	34129	45494	88773	85970	103135
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	14	3.67	7.4	0	0	0	1538	2571	1666
17.	Meghalaya	12.86	12.66	34.37	17.25	10.55	1958	1424	4709	3953	3305	6465
18.	Mizoram	5.77	6.29	15.38	4.24	6.7	3609	787	1403	1275	1305	2202
19.	Nagaland	8.05	13.33	610.06	4.28	3.06	2911	1446	1873	4473	6698	5966
20.	Orissa	244.16	291.35	618.57	236.80	307.68	13602	18272	41389	169488	444669	154205
21.	Punjab	9.75	9.86	46	8.75	16.05	1165	2673	3051	5317	5651	6050
22.	Rajasthan	82.56	199.38	268.62	72.13	178.46	1148	3063	6027	30471	37592	41888
23.	Sikkim	2.01	2.73	8.21	3.39	3.2	172	38	250	1754	1149	2041
24.	Tamil Nadu	132.51	251.09	512.06	139.54	240.87	52528	55327	59655	43540	62988	57069
25.	Tripura	43.52	37.03	126.96	30.06	62.43	4809	318	325	10382	10321	15003
26.	Uttar Pradesh	313.63	658.86	1314.43	394.65	35.17	31175	65344	121882	171944	177190	190950

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
27.	Uttaranchal	12.38	26.93	91.44	26.74	676.25	4159	6748	10538	11245	11799	21666
28.	West Bengal	84.22	171.20	445.04	94.56	243.19	2009	4546	12423	71553	86377	84726

SGRY-I: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (Stream-I).

SGRY-II: Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (Stream-II).

SGSY: Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana.

IAY : Indira Awaas Yojana.

Unit of the Schemes.

*The achievement include SGRY-II also.

SGRY-I: Employment generated in lakh mandays.

SGRY-II: For Employment generated in lakh mandays.

SGSY: The number of Swarozgaris assisted.

IAY: The number of houses constructed.

[English]

Deen Dayal Hathkargha Yojana

482. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries and amount granted during the last three years under the 'Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana', State-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to promote Handloom industry in North Eastern Region; and

(c) the number of exhibitions, craft melas organized to promote handloom in North Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) A statement showing number of beneficiaries and amount granted during the last three years under the 'Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana' State-wise is at Statement-I.

(b) A separate budget provision is made under various ongoing developmental and welfare schemes for

the States falling under the North Eastern Region (NER). Under the Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) a special dispensation is made in respect of the States falling under the NER in that the sharing ratio of assistance is 90:10 as in the case of J&K, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh while the sharing ratio in respect of other States is 50:50. Assistance towards subsidizing the cost of transportation of finished goods from the States of North East to their own outlets outside the State/approved outlets of the State to which it is transported/to the approved site of the exhibitions/fairs organized by Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms subject to the condition that the population of the place to which it is transported has over 10 lakh population (as per latest population census results), is also available under the DDHPY like in the case of J&K and Sikkim. A statement showing amount of assistance released to the States of NER under various ongoing schemes is at Statement-II.

(c) No craft mela has been organized in the North Eastern Region during the last three years. The number of exhibitions and other events organized to promote handloom in North Eastern Region during the last three years are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the event	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	National/Special Handloom Expos	04	03	08
2.	District Level Events	34	42	53
3.	Design Exhibition and Dyeing Workshops	—	30	23

Statement-I

Central Assistance released under Deen Dayal Hatkargha Pratsahan Yojana to NE States during the year 2001-02 to 2003-04

(Rupees in lakh)

S.No.	State	2001-02						2002-03						2003-04					
		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		Basic input (sanctioned)	Beneficiaries covered under Basic input	Basic input (Released)	Amount released as 2nd instalment	Marketing incentive sanctioned & Released	Total (Released)	Basic input (sanctioned)	Beneficiaries covered under Basic input	Basic input (Released)	Amount released as 2nd instalment	Marketing incentive sanctioned & Released	Total (Released)	Basic input (sanctioned)	Beneficiaries covered under Basic input	Basic input (Released)	Amount released as 2nd instalment	Marketing incentive sanctioned & Released	Total (Released)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2173.32750	5025	744.18000	-	432.64050	1176.82050	256.35475	4710	127.92000	342.00000	693.30000	1163.30000	-	-	-	1000.00000	646.45200	1646.45200
2.	Bihar	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	25.32175	464	12.62000	-	-	12.62000
3.	Chhattisgarh	16.16000	354	8.03000	-	24.54664	32.57564	74.49750	1330	37.16000	-	5.76000	42.92000	31.19375	464	15.59000	18.73750	9.57300	43.06716
4.	Delhi	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000
5.	Gujarat	-	-	-	212.50000	-	212.50000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000
6.	Haryana	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000
7.	Himachal Pradesh	48.63750	600	24.23000	-	-	24.23000	143.99252	1175	73.30000	-	48.37000	121.67000	133.59625	700	66.65000	1.25000	17.63004	85.53004
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	31.80000	31.80000	-	-	-	-	21.50000	21.50000
9.	Jharkhand	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000
10.	Karnataka	5.00000	-	2.50000	-	296.00072	298.50072	-	-	-	-	135.90000	135.90000	30.80075	1021	15.50000	2.50000	109.80015	128.00015
11.	Kerala	-	-	-	-	225.00000	225.00000	75.09061	800	37.34000	-	964.40000	1001.74000	514.52000	590	255.51000	-	429.83704	679.34704
12.	Madhya Pradesh	12.16125	255	6.08000	-	3.26186	9.34186	8.12375	165	4.05000	-	51.81000	55.86000	6.86750	150	3.40000	-	3.23005	6.69005
13.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000
14.	Orissa	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	23.34000	23.34000	-	-	-	-	20.90399	20.90399
15.	Punjab	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000	-	-	-	-	-	0.00000

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Assam	185,41,530	7,65	91,000	130	4,70,000	150	9,57,250	17,57	23,53,050	91,59,950	21,93,50,000	2,30,55,000	362,40,625	12,930	189,85,000	—	—	—	4,65,988	4,69,988
Tamil Nadu	835,65,625	13,236	416,29,000	—	226,53,893	643,24,893	451,31,500	65,40	223,46,000	—	230,48,000	453,94,000	470,50,000	9,207	234,45,000	82,04,050	311,77,910	628,27,169	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80,66,550	772	40,25,000	—	40,25,000	54,52,450	563	27,25,000	—	—	—	27,25,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,12,409	2,12,409
West Bengal	56,07,725	860	27,69,000	—	—	27,69,000	183,96,661	3,460	97,56,000	—	250,30,000	3,47,86,000	20,44,975	25	10,20,000	—	—	—	—	10,20,000
Total (A)	34,10,82,75	28,665	1,36,02,600	212,00,000	2,779,76,940	4,352,59,940	1,739,49,449	37,960	869,34,050	433,59,950	4,633,20,000	5,936,13,000	16,15,67,800	31,131	809,65,000	1,104,53,000	2,663,92,234	4,672,10,294	—	—

NE States

1. Assam	312,29,500	2,700	1,56,04,000	—	—	1,56,04,000	25,67,280	200	12,63,000	—	—	12,63,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000
2. Assam	1,736,99,662	15,300	866,07,300	—	—	866,07,300	1,605,17,900	14,300	802,23,000	—	35,64,000	837,87,000	560,18,000	5,400	279,89,000	9,73,402	1,56,08,278	445,71,990	—	—	
3. Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	927,47,500	79,13	463,52,000	—	—	463,52,000	—	—	—	110,78,763	—	—	—	110,78,763	
4. Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	
5. Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	—	—	—	—	2,48,000	2,48,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,47,468	3,47,468	
6. Nagaland	663,37,500	750	34,63,000	—	—	34,63,000	233,31,750	2,550	117,81,000	—	—	117,81,000	1,034,14,675	7,644	518,33,000	—	—	—	—	518,33,000	
7. Tripura	—	—	—	0,00,000	3,91,660	3,91,660	—	—	—	0,00,000	7,72,000	7,72,000	—	—	—	0,00,000	5,46,798	5,46,798	—	—	
8. Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0,00,000	
Total (B)	27,42,63,662	25,680	1,938,61,300	0,00,000	3,91,660	1,772,52,960	2,791,63,650	24,863	1,306,30,000	0,00,000	45,82,000	1,442,21,000	1,994,32,675	13,044	796,22,000	120,52,165	1,65,05,542	1,081,79,707	—	—	
G. Total (A+B)	61,53,46,417	54,346	27,25,67,300	212,00,000	2,783,68,600	5,725,65,900	4,531,13,999	68,923	2,284,73,050	433,59,950	4,679,02,000	7,377,94,000	32,10,004,75	44,175	1,598,87,000	1,225,05,165	3,128,97,776	5,863,89,411	—	—	

Collection of Tax Arrears

483. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special drive has been launched to collect the tax arrears amounting to Rs. 87,885 as on April 1, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount of tax arrears since collected during the period;

(c) whether the tax arrears of about Rs. 30,000 crore outstanding against big defaulters like Harshad Mehta and Ketan Parekh have been collected; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) With a view to co-ordinate, monitor and facilitate the efforts of the Income Tax Department towards recovery of arrear demand, a Task Force has been set up. The total cash collection out of the arrear demand for the six months ending 30.9.2004 has been 3,462 Crores.

(c) The tax demands pending against Harshad Mehta Group of cases and Ketan Parekh Group of cases have been recovered partly. In Harshad Mehta Group of cases, total amount of Rs. 1396.30 Crores had been collected till 1.4.2004, and no further collection has been made during the current financial year. In the Ketan Parekh Group of cases, total amount of Rs. 18.06 Crore was collected up to 01.04.2004, and a further amount of Rs. 21.58 Crore has been collected during the current financial year.

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

Shortage of Notary Public in West Bengal

484. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage of Notary Public in various district courts of West Bengal, people are facing great difficulties;

(b) whether a number of applications seeking appointment as a Notary Public are pending with the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to clear all the applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No. Sir, no complaints has been received in this regard.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, 97 applications are pending and the same are under process.

Special Package for Tea Industry

485. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA:
SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

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

(a) quantity of tea produced and exported/imported by the country during last three years, State-wise details;

(b) whether Tea Industry is facing crisis in the country particularly in West Bengal;

(c) if so, whether a special corpus fund with a revolving corpus of Rs. 1000 crore for replantation and rejuvenation of the industry has been created, details thereof;

(d) district-wise and category-wise list of tea growers during last five years closed down in each State and Union Territory showing date of closure, reason for closure, number of labourers affected;

(e) action taken for reopening and results achieved so far;

(f) whether drought, flood and large scale exports have created a shortage of tea and recorded hike in price by 50 per cent; and

(g) if so, measures taken to protect the price of tea and also the tea growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Details of production, exports and imports of tea during the last three years are furnished below:

Production, State-wise		(in million kg)		
State	2001	2002	2003	
Assam	453.94	432.51	453.44	
West Bengal	186.88	189.84	200.60	
Others	9.99	9.41	9.55	
North India	650.81	631.76	663.59	
Tamil Nadu	132.40	128.96	131.71	
Kerala	65.15	59.68	56.62	
Karnataka	5.56	5.77	5.14	
South India	203.11	194.41	193.47	
All India	853.92	826.17	857.06	
Tea exports & imports		(in million kg)		
	2001	2002	2003	
Exports	182.59	201.00	173.69	
Imports	17.18	24.80	9.88	

(b) The Indian tea industry (including West Bengal) has been passing through a period of depressed prices over the past five years. The industry is also beset with long term problems like old age of the plantations, worn-out machinery in the processing factories and poor infrastructure facilities.

(c) No special corpus fund for replantation and rejuvenation of the tea industry has yet been set up.

(d) and (e) As per available information, 96 financially weak gardens passed through the process of closure/suspension of work or lock out during the period of crisis. Three expert committees appointed by the Government had studied 36 tea gardens, which were lying closed in 2002. Based on these findings, the Central Government and Tea Board have facilitated discussions between the managements of the closed tea gardens, their bankers and the concerned State Governments. With the improvement in tea prices, 62 gardens have since been reopened. State-wise details of these gardens are as follows:-

State	No. of gardens closed	No. of gardens opened as on date	No. of gardens which remain closed as on date	Approximate number of workers in the gardens which remain closed as on date
West Bengal	50	40	10	6900
Assam	17	13	4	2800
Tripura	7	6	1	70
Kerala	22	3	19	10650
Total	96	62	34	20420

(f) and (g) Tea production during the current year was affected due to drought and flood during the first six months. When compared with previous year, the production was down by about 36 million kgs., by the end of October 2004. The average auction prices have started moving up from April 2004 onwards. The increase in prices, though modest, has helped the tea industry as a whole. While the average auction price have shown an upward trend, the retail prices of tea have been more or less steady.

A number of steps have been taken by the Government to help the Indian tea industry. These include setting up of a special fund with collections of additional excise duty on tea for the development, modernisation and rehabilitation of tea plantation sector, announcement of a Special Tea Term Loan (STTL) envisaging restructuring/rephasing of irregular portion of outstanding term/working capital loans in the tea sector and providing for working capital upto Rs. 2 lakhs at a rate not

exceeding 9% to small growers, implementation of a price sharing formula between small tea growers and manufacturers of made tea w.e.f. 1.4.2004, implementation of a price subsidy scheme for small tea growers for a period of four months from February to May 2004, implementation of an information dissemination plan for the tea industry, including conversion of four manual auction centres till date into electronic auction centres etc.

Upgradation of Coastal Highways to National Highways

486. SHRI BHARATSINH MADHAVSINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total length of Coastal Highways in Gujarat;
- (b) the details of the stretches of Coastal Highways upgraded to NHs during the last three years;
- (c) the details of coastal highways proposed to be upgraded to NHs during the current year; and
- (d) the details of the proposals/projects being implemented/to be implemented by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The total length of the Coastal Highways in Gujarat is 1600 Kilometers.

(b) The following stretches of Coastal Highways in Gujarat have been upgraded to National Highways during the last three years:

- (i) Mandavi-Narayan Sarovar Section (141.00 Km.)
- (ii) Dawarka-Somnath Section (208.85 Km.)

(c) After declaration of the stretches mentioned in (b) above, as National Highways in February 2004, no proposal has been received for upgradation of other stretches of Coastal Highways to National Highways.

(d) The development and maintenance of the National Highways is a continuous process depending upon the condition of roads, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

Corporatisation of PSBs

487. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received suggestions about corporatisation of Public Sector Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

CAPART

488. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise total number of projects sanctioned under the CAPART during the last three years, till date alongwith the locations where their schemes have been started;

(b) the project-wise amount allocated, released and utilized so far;

(c) the details of the achievements made so far in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to restructure CAPART;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of technology research centers under CAPART alongwith the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Role of Multinational Companies in Non-Development of Handloom Sector

489. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multinational companies are main cause of non-development of handloom sector in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take for safeguarding of the handloom sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There is no report so far suggesting that multinational companies are main cause of non development of the handloom sector in the country.

(b) Does not arise.

Condition of Powerlooms in Maharashtra

490. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI HARIBABU RATHOD:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that powerloom owners are facing many problems in the country specially in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal/scheme to solve the problem of powerloom owners in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government had been receiving requests from the Maharashtra powerloom industry for removal of CENVAT. In this year's budget the following important announcements have been made for the textile sector as a whole including the powerloom sector:-

- * Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarn, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- * This excise exemption has been given across the value addition chain. For those, opting to pay duty and avail CENVAT credit, two rates of duty have been given as under:-
 - All textile goods made of pure cotton, not containing any other textile material—4%;
 - Other textile goods—8%.

* Additional Excise Duty on Textiles and Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.

(c) and (d) Following steps have been taken to upgrade and promote the powerloom sector of the country:-

- * Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 20% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement of on the loan availed.
- * Government has announced a Scheme for assistance for construction of Group Workshed for powerlooms to create a better working environment and obtain high productivity.
- * Import of shuttleless looms has been allowed under concessional customs duty of 5% without countervailing duty. Excise exemption has also been given on such looms.
- * Accelerated depreciation benefits at the rate of 50% have been extended on the weaving machinery installed under TUFS.
- * Government has taken up modernization and strengthening of powerloom service centres (PSCs), which have been set up to provide technical services of training, testing, project preparation etc.
- * Computer Aided Design Centres have been set up to enable small powerloom units to access new designs and upgrade fabric by product development inputs.
- * For the betterment of powerloom weavers/workers in the powerloom sector, Government has launched a Group Insurance Scheme for them which has two components—(i) Coverage under existing "Janashri Bima Yojana" of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) Add-on Group Insurance coverage for death—both components administered by LIC.

Watershed in the Country

491. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of watershed sanctioned during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned for these watershed; and

(c) the number of watershed developed so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development implements three Area Development

Programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) on watershed basis. During the last three years *i.e.* 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, a total of 11,952 watershed projects covering 79.35 lakh ha. area with total cost of Rs. 4760.35 crore were sanctioned under these three programmes. The sanctioned amount is released to concerned DRDAs/ZPs in five instalments. Programme-wise details are as given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Programme	Total Number of projects sanctioned (2001-02 to 2003-04)	Area covered (lakh ha.)	Total cost (2001-02 to 2003-04) (Rs. in crore)
1.	IWDP	364	21.40	1283.95
2.	DPAP	7065	35.33	2119.50
3.	DDP	4523	22.62	1356.90
	Total	11952	79.35	4760.35

The State-wise watershed projects and the sanctioned amount for the last three years under IWDP, DPAP and DDP are given at Statement-I to III enclosed.

(c) The watershed projects sanctioned under IWDP, DPAP and DDP are completed over a period of 5 years from the date of sanction. As such, the watershed projects sanctioned during the last three years are at various stages of implementation.

Statement-I

No. of Projects and Amount sanctioned under IWDP from 2001-02 to 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	2001-2002			2002-2003			2003-2004			Total No. of Projects	Total Area (in ha.)	Total Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)
		No. of Project	Area (in ha.)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)	No. of Project	Area (in ha.)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)	No. of Project	Area (in ha.)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. In lakhs)			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10	58785	3527.10	2	12000	720.00	10	6000	3600.00	22	130785	7847.10
2.	Bihar	1	8000	480.00	—	—	0.00	9	45000	2700.00	10	53000	3180.00
3.	Chhattisgarh	6	42436	2546.16	—	—	0.00	8	40000	2400.00	14	82436	4946.16
4.	Goa	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.00	2	10000	600.00	2	10000	600.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
5.	Gujarat	6	37720	2263.20	—	—	0.00	11	57500	3450.00	17	95220	5713.20
6.	Haryana	3	21740	1304.40	—	—	0.00	4	20000	1200.00	7	41740	2504.40
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7	47110	2826.60	—	—	0.00	8	43000	2580.00	15	90110	5406.60
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	30567	1834.02	—	—	0.00	1	5000	300.00	5	35567	2134.02
9.	Jharkhand	1	6037	362.22	—	—	0.00	6	33000	1980.00	7	39037	2342.22
10.	Karnataka	8	55230	3313.80	1	6448	386.88	9	45000	2700.00	18	106678	6400.68
11.	Kerala	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.00	3	15000	900.00	3	15000	900.00
12.	Maharashtra	4	27275	1636.50	—	—	0.00	9	45000	2700.00	13	72275	4336.50
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10	60732	3643.95	1	7972	478.32	16	87000	5220.00	27	155704.47	9342.27
14.	Orissa	9	58555	3513.30	—	—	0.00	7	38000	2280.00	16	96555	5793.30
15.	Punjab	3	14181	850.86	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.00	3	14181	850.86
16.	Rajasthan	7	42362	2541.72	—	—	0.00	9	45000	2700.00	16	87362	5241.72
17.	Tamil Nadu	4	23343	1400.58	—	—	0.00	11	55000	3300.00	15	78343	4700.58
18.	Uttar Pradesh	7	40546	2432.76	—	—	0.00	13	65000	3900.00	20	105546	6332.76
19.	Uttaranchal	6	32751	1965.06	4	22063	1323.78	3	16000	960.00	13	70814	4248.84
20.	West Bengal	1	5460	327.60	—	—	0.00	2	10000	600.00	3	15460	927.60
Total		97	612830.5	38769.8282	8	48483	2908.98	141	734500	44070.00	246	1395813	83748.81
<i>North Eastern</i>													
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	8300	498.00	8	54171	3250.26	10	32000	1920.00	19	94471	5668.26
2.	Assam	10	58221	3493.26	15	90432	5425.92	14	84000	5040.00	39	232653	13959.18
3.	Manipur	1	8000	480.00	6	44500	2670.00	5	30000	1800.00	12	82500	4950.00
4.	Meghalaya	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.00	7	28000	1680.00	7	28000	1680.00
5.	Mizoram	5	37910	2274.60	5	40885	2441.10	5	40000	2400.00	15	118595	7115.70
6.	Nagaland	5	41030	2461.80	7	57250	3435.00	5	40000	2400.00	17	138280	8296.80
7.	Sikkim	2	12177	730.62	—	—	0.00	3	18000	1080.00	5	30177	1810.62
8.	Tripura	4	19423	1165.38	—	—	0.00	—	—	0.00	4	19423	1165.38
Total		28	185061	11103.66	41	287038	17222.28	40	272000	16320.00	118	744099	44845.94
G. Total		125	797891	47873.4882	49	335521	20131.3	190	1006500	60390	364	2139912.47	128394.748

Statement-II*No. of Projects and Amount Sanctioned Under DPAP from 2001-02 to 2003-04*

S.No.	State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		Total Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)
		No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	166	49.80	291	87.30	287	86.10	744	233.20
2.	Bihar	46	13.80	60	18.00	60	18.00	166	49.80
3.	Chhattisgarh	106	31.80	116	34.80	116	34.80	338	101.40
4.	Gujarat	110	33.00	241	72.30	250	75.00	601	180.30
5.	Himachal Pradesh	40	12.00	50	15.00	40	12.00	130	39.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	44	13.20	66	19.80	66	19.80	176	52.80
7.	Jharkhand	173	51.90	164	49.20	200	60.00	537	161.10
8.	Karnataka	245	73.50	221	66.30	227	68.10	693	207.90
9.	Madhya Pradesh	238	71.40	265	79.50	269	80.70	772	231.60
10.	Maharashtra	296	88.80	300	90.00	296	88.80	892	267.60
11.	Orissa	221	66.30	180	48.00	146	43.50	527	158.10
12.	Rajasthan	96	28.80	113	33.90	96	28.80	305	91.50
13.	Tamil Nadu	61	18.30	144	43.20	160	48.00	365	109.50
14.	Uttar Pradesh	92	27.60	158	47.40	160	48.00	410	123.00
15.	Uttaranchal	90	27.00	97	29.10	90	27.00	277	83.10
16.	West Bengal	28	8.40	32	9.60	72	21.60	132	39.60
Total		2052	615.60	2478	743.40	2535	760.50	7065	2199.50

Note: Each project under DPAP covers about 500 ha.

Statement-III*No. of Projects and Amount sanctioned under DDP from 2001-02 to 2003-04*

S.No.	State	2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		Total Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)
		No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	80	24.00	110	33.00	110	33.00	300	90.00
2.	Gujarat	304	91.20	277	83.10	298	89.40	879	263.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Haryana	100	30.00	121	36.30	118	35.40	339	101.70
4.	Himachal Pradesh	95	28.50	73	21.90	49	14.70	217	65.10
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	111	33.30	77	23.10	41	12.30	229	68.70
6.	Karnataka	160	48.00	165	49.50	166	49.80	491	147.30
7.	Rajasthan	509	152.70	779	233.70	780	234.00	2068	620.40
Total		1359	407.70	1602	480.60	1562	468.60	4523	1356.90

Note: Each project under DDP covers about 500 ha.

[*Translation*]

EAS

492. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to implement 'Employment Assurance Scheme' in rural areas;

(b) if so, the number of the districts, State-wise in the country which have been identified for the implementation of the scheme;

(c) whether the information regarding the number of unemployed persons has been collected before selecting the said districts;

(d) if so, the number and the amount likely to be spent for providing employment to the people;

(e) whether 'Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana' is being implemented in these areas; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) is no longer in operation now.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) and (f) The Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) is being implemented in all States/Union Territories except Chandigarh and Delhi.

[*English*]

Survey by IIPA

493. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) has been asked to conduct a survey to identify the villages and habitations that are not covered with potable drinking water and proper sanitation facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which survey is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India had asked all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations in February 2003 to conduct by 31st March 2003 a survey of drinking water supply status in rural habitations as per guidelines forwarded to them. So far, 24 States and 3 Union Territories have furnished the results wherein several discrepancies have been noticed. The survey results are to be validated by an independent agency like the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA). Completion of this exercise is contingent upon furnishing of requisite data by all States/UTs.

[Translation]

Loan to SSI

494. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank have issued instructions to all Banks to implement some recommendations of Dr. A.S. Ganguly Committee regarding distribution of loans in Small Scale Industries Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has identified 60 classified regions; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the distribution of loans will be made in small scale industries sector after identifying different regions of all States including Madhya Pradesh by the Reserve Bank of India, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued instructions to all banks on some of the recommendations of the Ganguly Committee vide circular dated 4th September, 2004. The instructions for the banks briefly stated are as under:

- (i) Besides the 60 clusters identified by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries for focused development of SSIs banks may identify new clusters and also adopt cluster based approach for financing.
- (ii) Lead Banks may consider sponsoring specific projects as well as widely publicize the successful working models of NGOs operating in South India and some other States which service small, tiny and individual entrepreneurs.
- (iii) Banks operating in the North East region may consider sanctioning higher working capital limits to SSIs, based on their commercial judgement due to the peculiar situation of hilly terrain and frequent flood causing hindrance in the transportation system.
- (iv) Banks may consider exploring new instruments for promoting rural industry and to improve the flow of credit to rural artisans, industries and rural entrepreneurs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ministry of Small Scale Industries had identified 60 clusters focused development and advised RBI to disseminate the relevant information to all public sector banks for initiating further necessary action and incorporating their credit requirements in the State Credit Plans. Accordingly, RBI has forwarded the details of the 60 clusters so identified all over India (including Madhya Pradesh) to the SLBC Convenor banks to constitute a special group of bankers and State Government Officials to resolve various issues arising on financing the clusters and report the developments of SLBC. RBI has also advised its Regional Offices to ensure that the issue on financing of the identified clusters is taken up at the SLBC meetings.

[English]

State Financial Corporation

495. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sought intervention of the Union Government in the capital restructuring of State Financial Corporation as per recommendations of Gupta Committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Government had rejected the proposal in 2002;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government have requested for review of the earlier decision; and

(d) if so, whether the request is under consideration of the Government?

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

(b) The then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, vide his letter dated 6th December, 2001 to the then Union Finance Minister, sought intervention of the Union Government in the capital restructuring of State Financial Corporations, including Maharashtra State Financial Corporation, as per recommendations of Gupta Committee. Maharashtra Government was advised vide letter dated 6th May, 2002 that State Government being the main stakeholder in SFC, may take steps for improving the performance of the SFC and for its recapitalisation. Meanwhile, on the encouragement of the Central Government, Small Industries Development Bank of India has undertaken restructuring of past loans of SFC's and has granted substantial concessions for future lending.

(c) and (d) Central Government has not received any request for review of the decision mentioned above.

[*Translation*]

Indian Exports

496. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether there has been decline in the export to European countries;

(b) reasons thereof and measures taken to enhance the export to European countries;

(c) names of the countries to which spices are exported, country-wise details;

(d) whether export of spices has declined during 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(e) if so, reasons therefor and measures taken to increase exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There has been no overall decline in exports to European countries. Nevertheless, Government of India facilitates the Indian industry to carry out among others, market studies, participation in trade fairs etc. to enhance exports to this region.

(c) Major destinations for Indian spices in Europe include:

Country	Spice exports in 2003-04 (Rs./Crores)
UK	126.03
Germany	104.29
France	47.45
Netherlands	44.62
Spain	30.99
Italy	19.30
Belgium	16.86

(d) While there was a marginal decline in export of spices to Europe in 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03, no decline in export of spices was noticed during April-October, 2004 compared to the same period of last year.

(e) The major reason for decline in export of spices to Europe is the emergence of low cost origins such as Vietnam, which has reduced the competitiveness of Indian spices. Measures taken to increase spice export *inter-alia* include mandatory sampling, strengthening quality evaluation laboratory, integrated pest management, value addition, product diversification etc.

[*English*]

Disinvestment of PSU

497. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Group of Ministers to decide on price band for disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs);

(b) if so, whether this Group of Ministers has decided the modalities of disinvestment of certain PSUs;

(c) if so, the recommendations made and the time by which these are likely to be effected;

(d) whether the Government proposes to create disinvestment fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has been constituted to take decisions on all issues related to Price Band for the sale of Government shares through GDR/ Domestic Capital Market route prior to the book building exercise and to decide the Final Price of Sale in all cases.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) and (e) Finance Minister in the Budget Speech for 2004-2005 has said that the disinvestment proceeds will be part of the Consolidated Fund of India but the

manner in which these proceeds are used for specified social sector schemes will be reported to the House while presenting the Budget for 2005-2006.

Norms for Intellectual Property Rights

498. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

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

(a) whether a three day international symposium on emerging issues of copyright protection in the digital environment was held recently;

(b) if so, the views made by participants;

(c) the Government's response thereto;

(d) whether the Government wants to establish a system for consistently evolving new norms for dealing with intellectual property rights issue; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary and Higher Education organized an Asia Pacific Regional Symposium on Emerging Issues of Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment at New Delhi from 13th to 15th October, 2004 in cooperation with World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) with the assistance of Japan Copyright Office.

(b) The participants expressed views on various issues relating to copyright protection in the digital environment including, *inter alia* on International Framework of Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment, Emerging Issues of Copyright and Related Rights in the Digital Environment, the Challenges of Implementing the WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT): National experiences, Legislative Trends in Japan and the United States of America: Increasing Copyright Protection or Expanding the Rights of Consumers and Users, Copyright Intermediaries in the Digital Environment: New and Traditional Roles—from the viewpoints of Collecting Societies/Agencies, Industry sector, consumers/users, Collaborative Creativity and Copyright Proprietary, Open Source and Free Software Movements, Emerging,

Online Business Models in the Music Field, Effective Management of Copyright in Digital Networks: Digital Rights Management, Private Copying and Levies and Policy and Strategy Options for Enhancing Copyright Protection in the Digital Environment. The challenges for ratifying WIPO Copyright Treaty and WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty were also discussed.

(c) Views and experiences would be used to develop the approach to be taken by the Government in addressing the issues that might arise related to copyrights in a digital environment including amendments to existing legislations.

(d) and (e) Initiatives consistent with domestic requirements and international developments, as appropriate, would be taken for dealing with evolving intellectual property rights issues.

[Translation]

Textile Cluster Infrastructure Development Scheme

499. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the schemes sanctioned under the textile cluster infrastructure development scheme;

(b) the State-wise details of the locations of the clusters and the amount to be spent therein; and

(c) the time by which the schemes sanctioned in the country specially in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government have announced a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" for rejuvenating and plugging critical infrastructure gaps in predominantly textile/apparel sector areas to help the units located therein to become globally competitive. Since the inception of scheme, thirteen project proposals have been sanctioned. The State-wise details of the schemes sanctioned, locations of the clusters and the amount, to be spent therein are given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Location		Total Project Cost	Central Share
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Pashamydarlam, Medak	13.37	10.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal	4.05	3.66
3.	Andhra Pradesh	Sircilla	7.73	4.28
4.	Gujarat	Narol-Shahwadi, Ahmedabad	34.39	20.00
5.	Gujarat	Pandesara, Surat	71.98	20.00
6.	Haryana	Sector 29, Phase-II, Panipat	46.90	20.00
7.	Kerala	Kannur	26.67	20.00
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore	17.14	9.12
9.	Maharashtra	Solapur	32.89	20.00
10.	Maharashtra	Bhiwandi (Cluster No. 3 and 6)	44.24	20.00
11.	Rajasthan	Jasol	42.06	17.25
12.	Tamil Nadu	Kancheepuram	38.8	19.25
13.	Tamil Nadu	Captive Power Plan Project Tirupur	22.40	11.20

(c) The sanctioned TCID projects, including those from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, need to be commissioned at the earliest, so that the industry is not constrained by critical gaps in infrastructure in the post quota regime. In view of the urgency, Government reviews the pace of implementation of approved projects from time to time, for their completion in a time bound manner.

[English]

Basel Accord Bank

500. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the Basel Accord banks in India would have to step up their credit delivery mechanism and enhance capital base;

(b) whether the Government is also aware of the fact that according to a survey conducted by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) level of computerization, absence of strong internal credit

rating mechanism are the basic factors responsible for poor credit delivery mechanism in India; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures being taken/ propose to take to remove these shortcomings in credit delivery mechanism and to enhance the capital base of the banks?

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

[Translation]

Judicial Reforms

501. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV:

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

(a) whether there is an urgent need for judicial reforms in the country;

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

(c) the areas identified in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to amend the various Sections of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Judicial reforms is a continuous process. It keeps pace with the changing time, conditions and requirements of the people. All efforts of the Government are geared to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man.

In recent past, various reforms have taken place in the judicial system of the country for speeding up the delivery of justice. Setting up of Fast Track Courts and Special Courts, Computerisation of judiciary, simplification of judicial procedure, augmenting Judges strength in High Courts and subordinate courts, training of Judicial Officers in Court management, organising Lok Adalats and alternative modes of dispute resolution and setting up of special tribunals are some of the aspects of ongoing judicial reforms.

(c) The areas identified in this regard are court and case management in higher and lower judiciary, augmentation of physical and IT infrastructure, filling up of vacancies of Judges, simplification of judicial procedures, and training for improvement in the quality of administration of justice.

(d) to (f) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994 (which was redrafted in the light of the recommendations of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee), *inter-alia*, aims at amendment to the provisions relating to appointment of prosecutors, discreet exercise of powers by police in arresting women, summary trial of criminal cases, mandatory, judicial inquiry into the cases of custodial deaths/disappearance/rape etc.

The 154th Report of Law Commission submitted in August 1996 and Malimath Committee Report on reforms of criminal justice system submitted in April, 2003, have

also suggested for a comprehensive review of the Code of Criminal Procedure and recommended a few amendments. As the criminal law system is a subject included in the concurrent list of the Constitution, the views of the State Governments in this regard have been solicited.

[English]

Cooperative Credit Structure

502. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen the cooperative banking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government appreciates that revitalisation of the cooperative credit structure and making finance available to the farmers at reasonable rate of interest is critical for the development of the farm sector;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government on the representation received in regard to cooperative credit structure by the Government of Gujarat; and

(e) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) to (e) With a view to strengthening the cooperative banking system, the Govt. of India has appointed a Task Force on 5.8.2004 under the chairmanship of Prof. A Vaidyanathan to recommend an implementable action plan for reviving the rural co-operative banking institutions taking into consideration *inter-alia*, the main recommendations made by various Committees in this regard. Various representations received from State Governments including the Govt. of Gujarat for revitalization assistance will be decided on receipt of the report of the Task Force.

In the meantime, NABARD has been urging the Co-operative Banks to review the present structure of interest rates keeping in view of the margins required at each level for viable operations. Besides, in tune with the declining interest regime, NABARD has been reducing its rate of interest on refinancing from time to time.

Production of Cotton

503. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bales of cotton produced in the country during the last three years *vis a vis* the target that were set in those years;

(b) whether the domestic demand for cotton, cotton

clothes and cotton readymade dresses are increasing every year;

(c) if so, the steps taken to increase the production; and

(d) the targets set for the coming three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The target and production of cotton during the 10th Five Year Plan are as under:-

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

Year	Target (under Technology Mission on Cotton)	Target (Projected consumption by working group on 10th Plan for Textile & Jute Industry)	Production
2002-03	160.63	184	136.00 (Actual)
2003-04	172.70	192	177.00 (Actual)
2004-05*	187.38	199	213.00 (Provisional)

*Projected.

(b) Yes, Sir. The domestic consumption of cotton during last three years is as under:-

(In lakh bales of 170 kg. each)

2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (Projected)	Includes mill (SSI /Non-SSI)-and Non-Mill Consumption
171.76	168.83	173.25	193.00	

Production, import and export of Cotton Cloth are as under:

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Production (In million square metre)	19769	19300	18040
Import in Million Kg.	9	14	51
Export in Million Kg.	221	253	773

Note: Details regarding production of readymade garments is not available.

(c) and (d) The Government of India had already launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February 2000 in the course of 9th Five Year Plan, with

the objective of improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton and reduction in cost of cultivation, in order to provide abundant supply of good quality cotton

at competitive prices to the textile industry and a remunerative return to the farmer. The TMC scheme has been continued during the 10th Five Year Plan *i.e.* upto 2006-07.

To improve the technology level of the industry, the Government of India has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years *i.e.* upto 31.03.2004 which was subsequently extended upto 31.03.2007 *i.e.* till the end of Tenth Five Year Plan. The scheme provides 5% interest reimbursement for Rupee Term Loan (RTL) and exchange rate fluctuation/forward cover premium limited to 5% for Foreign Currency Loan (FCL) availed for a project in conformity with the scheme.

The Government of India has not fixed any target for production of cotton and cotton cloth for coming three years. However, the Technology Mission on Cotton has projected production of cotton for 2005-06 and 2006-07 at 198.41 and 215.00 lakh bales respectively. There are no firm projections for production of cotton cloths in the country. However, it is expected that the cotton cloth production in the country may go up to 16850 and 17500 million square metres during 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively.

Mediclaim

504. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to high medical cost and decline in public hospitals mediclaim has today become the main health cover for most citizens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the national insurance companies are refusing to renew medical insurance policies who have fallen sick or claiming medical expenses;

(d) if so, whether IRDA has refused to intervene in the matter;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether sub-group of the working group of IRDA has looked into the changes in the mediclaim policies; and

(g) if so, the remedial steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that consumers are not harassed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The coverage under mediclaim insurance policy marketed by public sector general insurance companies has been growing over the years. The premium underwritten by them during 2003-04 was Rs. 1222.15 crores as against Rs. 1083.29 crores in the year 2002-03. However, only about 1% of total population could be covered under the scheme.

(c) to (e) There are isolated instances of refusal for renewal of mediclaim policies under which claims were preferred. Wherever such matters are brought to the notice of IRDA, the Authority has advised insurance companies to re-examine such cases.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Government has ensured setting of public grievance redressal mechanism in public sector general insurance companies for redressal of grievances.

Amending RCMC

505. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to amend the existing Registration-cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) to enable the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPCC) to recover the dues of BG/EMD forfeiture and maintain the statistical data of garment exports, as mooted in the new Foreign Trade Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAAN): (a) to (c) No amendments have been carried out in the new Foreign Trade Policy regarding the Registration cum-Membership Certificate (RCMC) to be obtained from Export Promotion Councils. Foreign Trade Policy has a well defined mechanism to enforce the forfeiture of Bank Guarantee in case of defaults by the exporters. Moreover, RCMC has never been used as a tool to collect statistical data. Compilation of such data is being done by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics.

Notaries in Kerala

506. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is in receipt of any representation from the Government of Kerala for revising the Union Government decision to have only 375 notaries in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action initiated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The maximum number of notaries fixed for the State of Kerala is 750 out of which 375 can be appointed by the State Government and 375 by the Central Government. The request of the State Government of Kerala for enhancement of the quota of the number of notaries was examined and it was not found feasible to do so, as the quotes for the number of notaries in various States/Union Territories have recently been fixed for the purpose of uniformity throughout the Country.

Inspection of Tainted Companies

507. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Company Affairs has ever conducted inspection of tainted companies;

(b) if so, the names of companies which have been inspected after receiving complaints against them;

(c) whether the Government is going to revise the Company Act completely to keep a check on frauds committed by companies against the investors; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Company Affairs can cause inspections of companies under section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 with a view to verify compliance with the provisions of the Act. Such inspections are conducted from time to time. The term 'tainted companies' is not defined in the Act. The Ministry conducted inspections of 96 companies based on preliminary investigation report of Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in connection with Stock Market Scam, 2001. A list of such companies is enclosed at statement.

(c) and (d) To enable a new frame work for regulation of corporate sector in tune with emerging economic scenario while encouraging good corporate governance and protection of the interests of the stakeholders including small investors, it has been decided to review and revamp the Companies Act, 1956. A concept paper on Company Law has been prepared and disseminated with a view to solicit the opinion of various stakeholders, professionals and interested public and others through a wide based consultative process. The Government is in the process of consulting various stakeholders. The revamping of Companies Act would enable *inter-alia* strengthening of provisions relating to rights of investors/shareholders, registration disclosures, financial reporting, declaration of directors' responsibility, inspections and penalties, all of which would help in checking frauds by companies against investors.

Statement

Inspections Ordered based on Preliminary Investigation Report of SEBI in Connection with Recent

Market Scam**Ketan Parekh Groups**

1.	M/s NH Securities Ltd.	WR
2.	M/s Triumph International Finance Ltd.	WR
3.	M/s Classic Share & Stock Broking Services Ltd.	WR
4.	M/s KNP Securities Pvt. Ltd.	WR

5.	M/s VN Parekh Securities Pvt. Ltd.	WR
6.	M/s Panther Fincap Management Services Ltd.	WR
7.	M/s Panther Investrade Ltd.	WR
8.	M/s Classic Credit Ltd.	WR
9.	M/s Saimangal Investrade Ltd.	WR
10.	M/s Classic Infin Ltd.	ER
11.	M/s Panther Industrial Products Ltd.	WR
12.	M/s Goldfish Computer Pvt. Ltd.	WR
13.	M/s Nakshatra Software Pvt. Ltd.	WR
14.	M/s Chitrakoot Computers Pvt. Ltd.	WR
15.	M/s Luminant Investment Pvt. Ltd.	WR
16.	M/s Triumph Securities Pvt. Ltd.	WR

Nirmal Bang Group

17.	M/s Bama Securities Ltd.	WR
18.	M/s Nirmal Bang Securities Ltd.	WR
19.	M/s Bang Equity Broking Pvt. Ltd.	WR
20.	M/s Bang Securities Pvt. Ltd.	WR
21.	M/s Nadi Finance & Investment Pvt. Ltd.	WR

Shankar Sharma & Devina Mehra Group

22.	M/s First Global Finance Pvt. Ltd.	NR
23.	M/s First Global Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd.	NR
24.	M/s Vruddhi Confinvest India Pvt. Ltd.	WR

Shallesh Shah Group

25.	M/s Dolat Capital Market Ltd.	WR
26.	M/s Nirpan Securities Ltd.	WR
27.	M/s Shailesh Shah Securities Ltd.	WR

Radha Krishna Damani Group

28.	M/s Damani Share & Stock Brokers Pvt. Ltd.	WR
29.	M/s Maheshwari Equity Brokers Pvt. Ltd.	WR
30.	M/s Jhunjhunwala Stock Broker Pvt. Ltd.	WR
31.	M/s Pratik Stock Vision Pvt. Ltd.	WR
32.	M/s Damani Estates & Finance Pvt. Ltd.	WR

33. M/s Bright Star Investments Ltd. WR
 34. M/s Krishna Securities Ltd. NR
 35. M/s Avenue Stock Brokers India Pvt. Ltd. WR

Ajay Kevan Group

36. M/s C. Mackertich Ltd. ER
 37. M/s SMIFS Securities Ltd. ER
 38. M/s Stewart Securities Ltd. ER
 39. M/s Maya Trade Link Ltd. ER
 40. M/s Powerflow Holdings Pvt. Ltd. ER
 41. M/s Mackertich Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. ER
 42. M/s PNR Securities Ltd. NR

Consortium Group

43. M/s Consortium Securities Ltd. NR
 44. M/s CSL Securities Pvt. Ltd. NR
 45. M/s CSL Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd. NR

BLB Group

46. M/s BLB Ltd. NR

Rathi Group

47. M/s Rathi Global Finance Ltd. NR
 48. M/s Anand Rathi Securities Pvt. Ltd. WR
 49. M/s Navratan Capital & Securities Pvt. Ltd. WR
 50. M/s Rathi Capital & Services Pvt. Ltd. WR
 51. M/s Amit Capital & Securities Pvt. Ltd. WR
 52. M/s Pushp Capital & Securities Pvt. Ltd. WR
 53. M/s Gerard Viegs Finvest Pvt. Ltd. WR
 54. M/s Hitkari Finvest Pvt. Ltd. WR
 55. M/s Preetraj Finvest Pvt. Ltd. WR
 56. M/s Suresh Rathi Securities Pvt. Ltd. WR

Zee Tele Group

57. M/s Zee Telefilms Ltd. WR
 58. M/s Siticable Network Pvt. Ltd. WR
 59. M/s Digital Superhighway WR

60.	M/s Briggs Trading Cot. Pvt. Ltd.	WR
61.	M/s Prajatma Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.	WR
62.	M/s Churu Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.	WR
63.	M/s Ganjam Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd.	WR

Other Companies

64.	M/s Zee Gold Refinery Ltd.	WR
65.	M/s Palombe Securities & Finance Ltd.	WR
66.	M/s Global Telesystems Ltd.	WR
67.	M/s Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd.	NR
68.	M/s Burlington Finance Ltd.	ER
69.	M/s DSQ Software Ltd.	SR
70.	M/s Pentamedia Graphics Ltd.	SR
71.	M/s Nirma Ltd.	WR
72.	M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	NR
73.	M/s Kopran Ltd.	WR
74.	M/s Adani Export Ltd.	WR
75.	M/s Lupin Laboratories Ltd.	WR
76.	M/s Padmini Polymers Ltd.	NR
77.	M/s Shonkh Technologies Ltd.	NR
78.	M/s Amar Raja Batteries Ltd.	SR
79.	M/s Global Trust Bank Ltd.	SR
80.	M/s Monesh Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.	WR
81.	M/s Moncon Investment Ltd.	WR
82.	M/s Manmandir Estate Developers (P) Ltd.	WR
83.	M/s Credit Suisse First Boston (I) Securities Pvt. Ltd.	WR
84.	M/s JM Morgan Stanley Securities Pvt. Ltd.	WR
85.	M/s JM Morgan Retail Services Pvt. Ltd.	WR
86.	M/s Aftek Infoeys Ltd.	WR
87.	M/s Silverline Industries Ltd.	WR
88.	M/s Doe Jones Investments & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.	ER
89.	M/s Arihant Exim Scrip Pvt. Ltd.	ER
90.	M/s Tripoli Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd.	ER

91.	M/s Khenami Securtties Pvt. Ltd.	ER
92.	M/s SSI Ltd.	SR
93.	M/s Cyberspace Ltd.	NR
94.	Ms/ Pruthvi Brokers & Shareholdings Pvt. Ltd.	WR
95.	M/s Biyani Securities Pvt. Ltd.	ER
96.	M/s Satyam Computer Services Ltd.	SR

Vacant posts of Judges

508. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) the number of posts of Judges lying vacant in various High Courts in the country as on date, court-wise;

(b) the reasons for not filling up of vacant posts so far; and

(c) the time by which the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A

Statement showing the vacancy position, High Court-wise, is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposals for appointment of Judges of High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and anticipated vacancies during the next six months.

Statement

Vacancy position as on 30.11.2004

Sl.No.	Name of the Court	Sanctioned Strength	Judges In position	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5
A.	Supreme Court of India	26	25	01
B.	High Court	Total	Total	Total
1.	Allahabad	95	73	22
2.	Andhra Pradesh	39	30	09
3.	Bombay	60	55	05
4.	Calcutta	50	41	09

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	06	06	00
6.	Delhi	33	28	05
7.	Gauhati	19	16	03
8.	Gujarat	42	33	09
9.	Himachal Pradesh	08	06	02
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	08	06
11.	Jharkhand	12	06	06
12.	Karnataka	40	31	09
13.	Kerala	29	28	01
14.	Madhya Pradesh	36	32	04
15.	Madras	42	28	14
16.	Orissa	20	14	06
17.	Patna	31	21	10
18.	Punjab & Haryana	40	33	07
19.	Rajasthan	40	25	15
20.	Sikkim	03	02	01
21.	Uttaranchal	09	09	—
Total		668	525	143

Amending of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act

509. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is finalising comprehensive amendments to the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 for taking safeguard action to prevent any sudden surge in imports;

(b) if so, whether any final decision in this regard has been taken; and

(c) if so, by what time the Act is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Foreign Trade

(Development & Regulation) Bill, 2001 was introduced in Rajya Sabha providing *inter-alia*, a mechanism for safeguard measures enabling imposition of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) where a surge in imports leads to, or threatens to seriously injure domestic industry. This Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Commerce and after incorporating their recommendations as well as provisions for certain other matters relating to foreign trade, Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Bill, 2005 (subsuming the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Bill, 2001 is likely to be introduced in the Parliament after taking into account the views/comments of various trade bodies as well as the concerned Ministries/Departments.

Decline in Exports to Pakistan

511. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has cut down its purchases of major commodities like iron and metal, sugar, plastic products, chemical and spices etc. from India in the last financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons analyzed; and

(c) the action proposed to increase economic activity between the two nations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) India's total trade with Pakistan has registered a positive growth of 39% (approx.) from US \$ 206.16 million during 2002-2003 to US \$ 286.55 million during 2003-2004. While India's exports of chemicals have increased from US \$ 41.74 million during 2002-2003 to US \$ 45.97 million during 2003-2004, the volume of trade during this period in respect of iron and metals, sugar, plastic products and spices has shown a declining trend.

(b) There is no specific reason for the decline in the export of some products except that volume of trade is primarily determined by various economic factors including, *inter-alia*, demand and supply, price competitiveness and alternative sources of supply available to the importers.

(c) Pakistan and India are signatories to the South Asia Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAFTA) which is scheduled to come into effect from 1.1.2006 and will give a significant boost to economic activities between the two nations. A Committee of Experts has also been set up to discuss trade related issues between the two

countries with a view to sorting these out for mutual benefit. Of late, there has also been a visible increase in business to business dialogue through exchange of visits and participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, etc.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan

512. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought a loan of four billion dollars from World Bank;

(b) if so, whether the loan has been sanctioned by the World Bank;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total financial assistance being provided by the International Financial Institutes per annum; and

(e) the details of projects for which the said assistance is being utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) A Statement indicating details of assistance committed by multilateral financial institutions to India during financial year 2003-04 is attached.

Statement

Assistance Committed by Multilateral Financial Institutions to India during financial year 2003-04

(Amount in Millions)

S.No.	Project Name	Organisation	Currency	Amount
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Assam Power Sector Development Program	ADB	US \$	150.0
2.	Assam Power Sector Development Project	ADB	US \$	100.0
3.	Rural Roads Sector-I Project	ADB	US \$	400.0
4.	Urban Water Supply and Environment Improvement in Madhya Pradesh	ADB	US \$	200.0

1	2	3	4	5
5.	National Highways Sector-I	ADB	US \$	400.0
6.	Chhattisgarh State Roads	ADB	US \$	180.0
		ADB Total		1430.0
1.	Livelihood Improvement Project in the Himalayaqs	IFAD	SDR	27.9
1.	Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	World Bank	US \$	89.0
2.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Program II	World Bank	US \$	220.0
3.	India Immunization Strengthening Project-Supplement	World Bank	US \$	83.4
4.	Allahabad Bypass Project	World Bank	US \$	240.0
5.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation "Jalswarajya" Project	World Bank	US \$	181.0
6.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	World Bank	US \$	348.0
7.	Food and Drugs Capacity Building Project	World Bank	US \$	54.0
8.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Reduction Project	World Bank	US \$	112.6
		World Bank Total		1328.0
Grand Total				2785.9

[English]

SGRY

513. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of foodgrains given as drought relief to the affected States so far;

(b) whether the Union Government has received request from any State Government for release of more funds/rice to continue work taken up under Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Foodgrains are allotted to the drought affected States under Special Component of Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) after the approval of the High Level Committee. A statement showing the position of foodgrains released to the drought affected States during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is enclosed.

(b) and (c) SGRY is an allocation based scheme. State-wise and district-wise allocations under this scheme are done on the basis of pre-determined criteria in the beginning of the financial year. Additional funds and foodgrains to districts are provided only from savings at the end of the financial year and that too on the basis of performance. Requests for releasing additional funds under SGRY from different districts are entertained after the concerned Implementing Agencies have drawn both the instalments and utilized the maximum portion of available funds, subject to the availability of funds.

Statement

S.No.		2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		Quantity Released (MTs)			Quantity Released (MTs)			Quantity Released (MTs)		
		Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	2000000	2000000	0	1820000	1820000	0	182000	182000
2.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200000	200000
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	329116	329116	0	238000	238000	0	0	0
4.	Gujarat	118000	30000	148000	79000	79000	158000	0	0	0
5.	Haryana	25000	0	25000	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	4232	5768	10000	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Jharkhand	20000	20000	40000	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Karnataka	0	530000	530000	0	679750	679750	0	239620	239620
9.	Kerala	0	52000	52000	0	61000	61000	0	42000	42000
10.	Madhya Pradesh	273557	93943	367500	354920	119080	474000	50000	0	50000
11.	Maharashtra	92640	23160	115800	492640	23160	515800	300000	0	300000
12.	Orissa	0	200000	200000	0	222000	222000	0	0	0
13.	Rajasthan	1898420	0	1898420	1357630	0	1357630	19000	0	19000
14.	Tamil Nadu	—	125000	125000	—	679000	679000	—	0	0
15.	Uttar Pradesh	200000	0	200000	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Uttaranchal	19000	31000	50000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	2650849	3439987	6090836	2284190	3920990	6205180	369000	663620	1032620

Development of Rural Roads in Gujarat

514. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the roads in rural areas in the country that have been made pucca roads with the help of funds provided by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD);

(b) the total number of pucca roads to be undertaken by NABARD's funds during the current year;

(c) the total expenditure to be incurred for this purpose;

(d) the provisions made in this current Budget for this purpose;

(e) whether the Government proposes to link unconnected villages in Uttar Pradesh with metalled roads;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time likely to be taken to fulfil this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Rural roads is a State subject. As reported by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), funds have been sanctioned under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to various States for the construction of roads in rural areas in different tranches, as per details at Statement-I. A total of 152483 kms. of roads mainly in rural areas have been made pucca at a cost of Rs. 12,367.41 crore with NABARD assistance.

(b) to (d) RIDF-X is being operationalised during the current year with a corpus of Rs. 8000 crore and will be utilised for developmental activities including roads in rural areas. In the current year, a sum of Rs. 336.38 crore has been sanctioned so far to State Governments for development of roads with a length of 3140 kms.

(e) to (g) Since Rural Roads is a State Subject, the policies and programmes are decided by the State

Governments. In addition, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing all-weather connectivity to habitations with population above 500, including construction of metalled roads where required. The PMGSY is presently funded from a cess on High Speed Diesel, and the cess amount is collected at the rate of Re. 1 per litre. Annual allocation for rural roads to Uttar Pradesh out of this cess is Rs. 315 crore. The cess amount was increased by fifty paise/litre in the budget announcement of 2003-04, but the additional amount is yet to be received. Progress in coverage under PMGSY is determined by availability of funds.

In addition to the normal PMGSY allocation to States, World Bank has also approved a loan/credit for construction of rural roads in four States including Uttar Pradesh, under PMGSY.

Statement

Amount sanctioned to Rural Roads Sector under RIDF

(As on 31.10.2004)

(Rs. in Crore)

S.No.	State	RIDF-I	RIDF-II	RIDF-III	RIDF-IV	RIDF-V	RIDF-VI	RIDF-VII	RIDF-VIII	RIDF-IX	RIDF-X	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	117.68	87.56	164.25	89.33	109.43	179.04	282.59	50.08	153.60	1233.60
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.84	73.29	36.60	0.00	12.93	5.57	134.23
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48.83
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.37	9.55	0.00	50.68	61.60
5.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.74	10.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.44
6.	Gujarat	0.00	56.25	54.00	28.48	199.54	282.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	602.87
7.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	8.07	19.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	126.78	0.00	154.05
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	24.42	45.11	63.33	60.20	42.95	83.14	89.82	57.32	0.00	466.29
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.96	105.98	124.15	163.42	68.27	137.41	0.00	669.19
10.	Karnataka	0.00	70.54	138.84	133.20	153.77	225.17	106.18	141.33	159.89	0.00	1128.92
11.	Kerala	0.00	0.00	31.27	8.53	51.06	69.56	83.81	109.32	22.44	13.05	389.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	74.82	73.59	86.89	104.07	57.17	2.96	10.09	0.00	409.39
13.	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	244.58	179.68	328.89	243.95	214.82	200.33	58.59	0.00	1488.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	3.39	0.00	5.86	0.00	24.44	16.80	9.69	3.84	0.00	0.00	64.02
16.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.04
17.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.51	54.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	65.39
18.	Orissa	0.00	9.33	18.64	3.78	8.96	0.00	8.82	100.67	49.38	39.02	238.60
19.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	14.20	12.60	63.21	8.15	81.73	69.10	96.15	0.00	345.14
20.	Rajasthan	0.00	85.35	50.78	5.33	77.46	92.40	175.67	346.75	0.00	43.99	877.73
21.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	230.46	119.29	112.07	167.30	127.50	135.22	117.54	212.69	14.21	1236.28
22.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	215.99	125.94	303.60	123.81	218.01	181.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	1169.32
24.	West Bengal	0.00	69.64	147.95	180.53	131.16	248.51	216.53	64.03	15.29	15.42	1089.06
25.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.42	0.00	4.55	0.00	0.00	0.68	0.84	20.49
26.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90
27.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	15.48	6.66	5.34	1.49	28.86	84.92	154.35	0.00	297.10
28.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	21.69	36.78	1.35	0.00	0.00	35.40	16.83	0.00	112.05
	Grand Total	3.39	879.66	1203.88	1417.89	1738.08	2106.03	1774.78	1726.42	1180.90	336.38	12367.41

[*Translation*]

Trade Agreement with Thailand

515. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the domestic industries are adversely affected due to an open trade agreement with Thailand;

(b) if so, whether the Government has any apprehension of such adverse impact; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to save domestic industries from such impact?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S.

ELANGOVA): (a) India and Thailand have signed the Framework Agreement on Free Trade Area covering goods, services & investment with the objectives of creating favourable conditions for greater economic cooperation and promote fair competition as well as exploring new areas and develop appropriate measures for closer economic cooperation between them. It is expected that the trade and investment flows would increase both ways with joint ventures and backward-forward linkages between the industries of the two sides. However, the same would also depend on the complementarities and comparative advantages of various industries.

(b) and (c) The tariff preferences on products covered under the Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) and the FTA in goods on imports to India would be available only for those products which enjoy the 'originating status' in Thailand as prescribed under the Rules of Origin. Similarly, the products which enjoy the 'originating status' in India would only get tariff preferences for imports in Thailand.

To protect the domestic industry which would be adversely affected due to surge in imports, the Framework Agreement provides for each country to maintain a negative/sensitive list of items on which no tariff concessions shall be granted under the FTA. In addition, the Agreement provides for trade defence measures which an importing country can take recourse to. In case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards. The Agreement also provides for cooperation among customs authorities for ensuring that the Rules are not violated.

Meat Export

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

(a) names of countries to which meat of various animals was exported during last three years and till date alongwith details of said animals and country-wise/year-wise details of foreign exchange earned by India;

(b) whether the Government have received requests/suggestions from various religious organisations/social organisations to stop export of meat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) Malaysia, Philippines, Egypt, UAE, Jordan, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar are major export destinations for meat being exported from India. The total quantity and value of meat exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (in MTs)	Value (In Rs. crores)
2001-02	248374	1183
2002-03	305551	1358
2003-04	370466	1694

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

(b) to (d) Representations from organizations like Bharatiya Cattle Resource Development Foundation, New Delhi, Maharaja Kumarapal Jeevodaya Trust, Chennai,

Jain Social Group, Akola, Maharashtra and Animal Rights International, New Delhi have been received for imposing ban on export of meat. As per current Foreign Trade Policy, export of beef is banned. However export of buffalo, sheep and goat meat is free.

[English]

Relaxation of Anti-Dumping for Russia

517. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has relaxed anti-dumping norms for Russia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof with reasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Foreign Banks

518. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign banks operating in India at present;

(b) whether foreign banks are making much more profits as compared to Indian Banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the comparative figures of profits and losses of foreign banks vis-a-vis Indian Banks for the last three years; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As on 31st October, 2004, 32 foreign banks were operating in India.

(b) to (e) The details of Operating profit of public sector banks and foreign banks are as under:-

(Rupees in crores)

Banks groups	Operating Profit		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Public Sector Banks	21676.54	29715.24	39474.72
Foreign Banks	3513.61	3727.85	4987.40

The profits of both public sector banks and foreign banks has grown over the years. Govt. is encouraging healthy competition among these groups for better quality banking services to the customers.

[English]

Ban on External Commercial Borrowings

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

(a) whether the Government has imposed a complete ban on External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) by Indian companies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of loss suffered by Gujarat Government as a result of this decision;

(d) whether the Government has undertaken a review on the issue and proposed to lift the ban on ECB to help corporate sector in getting cheap funds from abroad; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The policy of External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) is reviewed periodically by Government in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). ECB policy was last reviewed in January, 2004, based on which the current ECB guidelines were notified by RBI on 31st January, 2004.

As per these guidelines, all corporates registered under the Companies Act, except financial intermediaries, are eligible borrowers under the automatic route for ECBs up to USD 500 Million. Proposals not covered under the automatic route are considered by a committee set up by RBI.

ECBs can be raised for investment in the real sector, that is, the industrial sector, including small and medium enterprises, and the infrastructure sector.

[Translation]

Fukkan Commission

520. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has disbanded Justice S.N. Fukkan Commission probing Tehelka episode;

(b) if so, the main reasons for disbanding the said Commission;

(c) whether the Government propose to probe the entire Tehelka episode through CBI; and

(d) if so, the reason for getting it probed by the CBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) After careful consideration of the entire matter, the Government has decided to have the matter investigated by the CBI and accordingly, the CBI has been requested to proceed further in regard to the investigation.

[English]

RBI Guidelines on Non-Official Directors

521. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has drawn up any guidelines for appointment of non-official directors in public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these guidelines taken into account the recommendations of Narasimham and R.H. Patil Committees suggesting creation of professionally run bank boards;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the new RBI guidelines will ensure that the practice of nomination of directors with vested interests in discontinued; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) No, Sir. However, keeping in view the recommendations of Narasimham Committee, R.H. Patil Committee and Ganguly Committee guidelines are being framed by the Government for appointment of non-official directors.

Small Savings

522. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has pointed out the losing of sizeable amount in the loan eligible from the Union Government due to the non-reconstitution of postal figure;

(b) whether the Government has noticed the scarcity of RD pass books, SB pass books, agents receipt books, cheque leaf which really intervene the smooth collection of small savings;

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to solve the issue;

(d) whether the Government takes necessary steps to ban of cooperative sector in small savings; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Instances of shortage of certain stationery items, cheque books, etc., in some States, have been brought to the notice of the Government. Suitable steps to ensure adequate and timely supply of these items have been taken from time to time.

(d) and (e) The small savings schemes are meant for small investors in rural and urban areas. Cooperative societies, banks, institutions, etc., are not eligible to invest their surplus funds under these schemes.

SBI Collecting Amount from International Market

523. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India proposes to collect one bn. Dollar from international market;

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

(c) the aims and objectives for collecting the said amount from international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. State Bank has established a Medium Term Notes (MTN) programme to facilitate issuance of debt instruments denominated in foreign currency. The proceeds of such issuance would be deployed at foreign branches of State Bank of India to fund their operations. The size of this MTN programme is USD 1 billion.

(c) The purpose of the MTN programme is to augment the resources of SBI's foreign branches with stable and long tenor funds. This would facilitate reduction in dependence on inter-bank borrowings, facilitate building up of the assets and enlarge the investor base.

[Translation]

Wages of Workers of Textile Industry

524. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the wages of workers employed in textile industry in India is lowest in comparison to other countries of the world except Cambodia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the average of per hour wages of workers employed in textile industry in India in comparison to other countries Sri Lanka, Pakistan, China and America; and

(d) whether the Government is proposing to take measures to increase the participation of workers in profit or hike the wages?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) A news item carried by some of the news papers have quoted a study which has stated that the average wage of Indian workers in textile industry is \$ 0.38 per hour as compared to \$0.41 in Pakistan, \$0.48 per hour in Srilanka and \$0.68 per hour in China. However a study titled "Cost benchmarking study - India vis-a-vis Bangladesh, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China and Pakistan" got conducted by Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council has found that average wages of Indian workers during the period October, 2001 to March, 2002 was \$ 0.50 per hour compared to \$ 0.39 in Pakistan, \$ 0.37 in Sri Lanka, \$ 0.57 in China, \$0.23 in Bangladesh and \$0.34 in Indonesia.

[English]

Meeting of Chief Ministers

525. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of High Courts was held in New Delhi on September 18, 2004 duly attended by the Chief Justice of India, Prime Ministers of India and others;

(b) if so, the matters discussed in that conference; and

(c) the decisions taken, if any, to bring down the pendency of cases in the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conference discussed a broad array of subject matters relating to administration of justice and judicial reforms, which can be categorized in the following segments: (a) Modernization of Courts (b) Reduction/ Elimination of Arrears (c) Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods and (d) Service Conditions of Judges.

(c) Resolution of the Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Envisioning Justice in the 21st Century

Conference of the Chief Ministers of States and the Chief Justices of High Courts on September 18, 2004

Resolutions

A conference of the Chief Ministers of States and UTs and the Chief Justices of High Courts was held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on September 18, 2004 to deliberate on the theme of 'Envisioning Justice in the 21st Century'. The conference discussed a broad array of subject matters relating to administration of justice and judicial reforms, which can be categorized into the following segments: (a) Modernization of Courts (b) Reduction/Elimination of Arrears (c) Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods and (d) Service Conditions of Judges.

During the deliberations, there was consensus that courts in India need to professionalize their administrative staff and system, and in doing so, they need to optimize their use of resource. It was agreed that the courts need to improve their capacity to collect and act upon information about their internal processes, and improve the range of systems and tools that are available for the management of the caseload. While individual competencies of Judges need to improve through continuing education and personal development, the courts are also required to deliberate and arrive at measures to sustain these improvements.

It emerged in the conference that the State and national governments need to continuously monitor modernization activities and performance of courts, and develop strategies, which reduce the demand for court services and increase the enforceability of court decision.

After due deliberations, the conference arrived at the following resolutions pertaining to four broad segments of discussion:

(A) Modernization of Courts

1. RESOLVED that the available talent and expertise in information technology be harnessed for modernizing the justice delivery system. The Central Government, therefore, will take the leadership role to ensure (a) full computerization of courts up to the district level, in a phased manner (b) use of latest available technologies, including video conferencing and digital signatures (c)

creation of database of pending cases for generating live statistics (d) prepare a viable strategic IT Action Plan for clearance of arrears and (e) secure a litigant friendly availability of information through internet, websites of all High Courts and Facilitation Centres in or around court buildings.

2. RESOLVED to actively foster professional management of the justice delivery system in court administration and in respect of interface with litigants and lawyers. Recognizing the need for professionalism, it is further RESOLVED that court management, database management and knowledge management must be encouraged.

3. RESOLVED that confidence building measures among all stakeholders in the justice delivery system is the need of the hour and to promote these measures, the Court system should publish Annual Reports of achievements and use of resources.

4. RESOLVED that the institutional capabilities of institutions will be strengthened for judicial training and continuing education. Besides Judicial Officers and Judges, continuing education must also be imparted for the administrative staff of all courts to achieve maximum level of competence.

5. RESOLVED that budgetary demands made by the High Courts need to be accepted ordinarily and the High Courts authorized to make appropriation and re-appropriation subject to over all budgetary allotment. The need for internal audits in High Courts is emphasized.

6. RESOLVED that government will take measures to rationalize and standardize court buildings, court staffing pattern and Judges residence, while phasing out old and outdated court buildings. A 10-year Perspective Plan will be prepared to obtain appropriate budgetary allocation for plan expenditure.

(B) Reduction/Elimination of Arrears

1. RESOLVED that management exercises be carried out in all courts to reduce arrears on priority basis including exercises on caseload management, court and resource management, by working out a Judge-case ratio instead of a Judge-population ratio.

2. RESOLVED that the Fast Track Courts scheme to continued for a period of five years beyond 2005, and Fast Track Magistrate Courts on similar lines be established.

3. RESOLVED that Law Clerks and Research Assistants may be engaged to reduce the administrative burden on Judges, court procedures be simplified for layman, court congestions particularly of the Registry be removed, vacancies amongst judicial officers and court staff may be filled up expeditiously, and Special Courts may be established accompanied by additional strength and infrastructure to make it effective.

4. RESOLVED that in-house mechanism may be developed for resolution of disputes in litigation to which government, PSU, government corporations are parties.

5. RESOLVED that while prompt and qualitative appointment of government advocates and public prosecutors may be made in all courts, adequate infrastructure and facilities may be provided for the effective functioning of tribunal and commissions.

6. RESOLVED that additional Family Courts may be created assisted by marriage counselling bureaus and officers.

7. RESOLVED that time management may be strictly enforced through reducing the number of adjournments and time spent in oral arguments. Setting time standards may be made imperative for various processes such as completion of pleadings, presentation of oral arguments, delivery of judgement, and availability of certified copies of documents.

8. RESOLVED that the participation of the BAR may be encouraged in the administrative management of the court.

(C) Use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) methods

1. RESOLVED that keeping in mind the international success of ADR, it is imperative to encourage the three systems of ADR, such as (a) Inter-party mediation (b) Court referred mediation and (c) Court annexed mediation.

2. RESOLVED that necessary finances will be provided by the Central and the State/UT Governments to encourage and develop infrastructure for implementing ADR programmes to reduce court burdens and congestion and for forming a separate cadre of officers to be trained as active mediators.

3. RESOLVED to establish pilot schemes in various High Courts and District Courts to encourage mediation in all forms with the active participation of the Bench and the Bar.

4. RESOLVED to encourage settlement of cases through Lok Adalats not only in the States and districts but also at the taluka level. There is need for strengthening and propagating Lok Adalats and Legal Literacy Programmes and formulation of a separate cadre of Legal Literacy Secretaries at the district level.

5. RESOLVED to strengthen legal aid mechanisms with the active co-operation of NALSA and State Legal Aid Authorities.

(D) Service Conditions of Judges

1. RESOLVED that the Union Territories and the State Governments shall do their best to implement the recommendations of First National Judicial Pay Commission (Jagannath Shetty Commission) consistently with the directions given by the Supreme Court of India from time to time.

2. RESOLVED that the retired Chief Justices and Judges of the High Courts need to be provided with facilities such as Secretary/Driver/Orderly and protocol assistance for travelling and medical treatment and shall identify modalities for providing the same.

3. RESOLVED that the State/UT Governments shall examine and consider the proposal for providing medical facilities to the retired Judges of the High Courts residing within their jurisdiction on par with the sitting Judges of the High Courts.

(E) Additional Resolutions

1. RESOLVED that the resolutions passed in the Chief Justices' Conferences shall receive the personal attention of Chief Ministers/Law Ministers/Finance Ministers in the States/UTs and any positive decision for implementation shall be monitored at that level. Similarly, in the Central Government as also in the Union Territories, the resolution shall be dealt with at the highest level.

2. RESOLVED that the State Governments shall ensure consistently with their financial resources, release of matching grants under Centrally-sponsored Schemes for judicial reforms and in the event of their financial inability to do so convince the Central Government for the need for dispensing with the requirement of matching grant.

3. RESOLVED that the State Governments shall examine the need for dispensing with the process of

appointment to judicial services being conducted by Public Service Commissions on such proposal being received from the respective High Courts.

Promotion of Domestic Consumption of Coffee

526. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to boost the domestic consumption of coffee in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to provide funds for promotion of coffee to boost its domestic consumption; and

(c) if so, what is the amount proposed to be spent in this regard during 2004-2005 particularly in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In order to promote the domestic consumption of coffee, the Coffee Board is already implementing a plan scheme viz. Market Development with component for promotion of domestic consumption of coffee during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(c) For 2004-05, the Coffee Board has earmarked for Rs. 2.80 crore for promotion of domestic consumption of coffee. However, State wise allocations has not been made by the Board.

[Translation]

Funds for Calamity Affected in Rural Areas

527. SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any letter from the Government of Uttar Pradesh seeking funds for providing relief for natural calamity and flood affected people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said funds are likely to be allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) For grant of Central Assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), the nodal Ministries are the Ministry of Agriculture for drought and the Ministry of Home Affairs for flood and other calamities. To take up employment-oriented works in calamity affected areas, the Ministry of Rural Development provides foodgrains free of cost to the affected States as per the approval of the High Level Committee. While foodgrains are provided under the Special Component of Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY), Cash Component for the Scheme is to be provided by the State Government concerned either from State Sector Schemes or Centrally Sponsored Schemes in which foodgrains are utilized.

Government of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted any memorandum seeking assistance from NCCF in the wake of floods during the current year. The State Government submitted a memorandum to the Ministry of Agriculture seeking assistance from NCCF for drought during the current year. The High Level Committee approved an amount of Rs. 360.94 crore for drought management subject to the adjustment of funds available for instant calamity under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). An amount of Rs. 192.10 crore has been released from NCCF to the Government of Uttar Pradesh during 2004-05 for management of drought after adjustment of balance in CRF for current drought.

[English]

Pension to Bank Employees

528. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ex-servicemen Bank Employees from "State Bank of Hyderabad" who had to their credit 15 years and more of pensionable service in the Bank, retired under "Bank's Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS-2001)" were denied pension when a clear amendment to "Bank (Employees) Pension Regulations-1995", was already existing to this effect;

(b) if so, the reasons for denying the pension to these employees;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to give pension to these employees; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Voluntary Retirement Scheme circulated by the State Bank of Hyderabad clearly stipulated that "those employees who apply for retirement under the scheme but who have not completed 20 years of pensionable service as on the relevant date are not eligible for pension". The Pension Regulations of State Bank of Hyderabad as well as other associate banks of State Bank of India were made by SBI with the approval of the RBI, whereas the pension regulations of the nationalized banks were made by the banks after consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and with the prior approval of the Central Government. The amendment to Bank (Employees) Pension Regulations, 1995 referred to in the question relate to nationalized banks and not to the associate banks of SBI. The request made by National Ex-servicemen Coordination Committee for providing pension to VRS optees with the minimum service of 15 years was examined by the State Bank of Hyderabad. The bank has reported that the Associate Banks as a group have decided in consultation with SBI not to amend the pension regulations retrospectively to provide pensionary benefits to such employees.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Special Courts for Women

529. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute special courts to deal cases of atrocities and offences against women exclusively;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) As per the Criminal Procedure Code, the State Government, after consultation with the High Court, can establish Special Courts to try any case or class of cases. Apart from the existing courts, a set of additional courts, known as Fast Track Courts, have been set up for speeding up of long pending cases including cases of atrocities relating to women.

Bhubaneswar Urban Haat Project

530. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhubaneswar Urban Haat Project has been approved by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the project;

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided to the above project;

(d) whether the Government has planned to provide grants-in-aid to organize a Craft Bazar in the Haat premises; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which it can be useful for craftsmen?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Urban Haat at Bhubneshwar was approved in the year 1998-99 and has since become operational. Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneshwar is the Implementing Agency for setting up the said Haat. The Urban Haat aims to provide direct marketing facilities to the handicraft artisans and handloom weavers round the year.

(c) Out of the total sanctioned project cost of Rs. 186.00 lakhs, the Government of India's share of Rs. 126.13 lakhs has been released to the Implementing Agency.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A proposal for organisation of craft bazar has been received from Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., Bhubaneshwar.

The organisation of craft Bazar helps in boosting the sale and income of artisans and weavers by providing direct marketing opportunity.

[Translation]

Financial Agreement with other Countries

531. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agreements signed with other countries for financial assistance during the last two years; and

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the amount of assistance received from them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of agreements signed with other countries during last two years, *i.e.*, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 is 21 and 19 respectively.

(b) The names of the countries and the amount of assistance received so far, on Government account, from them in respect of the projects for which agreements were signed during 2002-03 and 2003-04, are given below:

Country	Amount of assistance received so far (In Rupees crores)
Canada	0.24
U.S.A.	0.00
Denmark	0.93
U.K.	988.36
France	15.77
Germany	44.15
Japan	2900.61
Netherlands	191.36
Total	4141.42

[English]

ATM Facilities in Rural Areas

532. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend the ATM Card facilities in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the number of villages earmarked for providing ATM facilities in first phase particularly Rajasthan State;

(d) whether the Government has set any target to cover all villages with ATM facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India have reported that in terms of the extant policy, banks have been given freedom to open ATMs at their discretion after obtaining licence from the Regional Offices of the Bank. The Bank has further informed that as on 31.3.2004, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur and State Bank of India have opened 5 and 2 ATM respectively in the rural areas of State of Rajasthan.

Upgradation of Handloom and Handicrafts Industry

533. SHRI SUDAM MARNDI:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to upgrade textile, handloom and handicraft industry and technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the various schemes formulated/to be formulated by the Government to upgrade/modernise textile, handloom and handicraft industry; and

(d) the funds allocated during the last three years for the said purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The following schemes are being implemented:

In Textile Sector:

- (i) The Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for modernization/technology upgradation of Textile and Jute Industries, w.e.f. 1.4.1999 for a period of 5 years *i.e.*, up to 31st March 2004, which was subsequently extended by 3 years, *i.e.* up to 31.3.2007.
- (ii) Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) is meant for modernising infrastructure facilities at major textile centres of the country. The Central assistance under the scheme is available for the critical components of the project subject to a maximum of Rs. 20 crore for each area. The Central assistance would be available to the extent of 100% of the critical components of the project in respect of

Common Effluent Plant, improving water supply and drainage facilities and construction of creche building for apparel units, whereas the other components would be funded on 75:25 basis between Centre and states/reputed agencies concerned.

In Handloom Sector: The Plan Schemes include, Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), Marketing Promotion Programme Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme (it covers Thrift Fund Scheme, New Insurance Scheme and Health Package Scheme), Handloom Export Scheme and Design Development & Training Programme. Recently new schemes for skill upgradation namely—Integrated Handloom Training Project; for Insurance coverage, namely—Bunkar Bima Yojana; and a Non-Plan Scheme of one time Rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on sale of handloom cloth have already been introduced in 2003-04.

In Handicraft Sector: The schemes under implementation for development and promotion of handicraft sector include, Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY); Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research and Development; Bima Yojana; Special Handicrafts Training Programme (SHTP) & Financial assistance to state Handicrafts Development Corporations (SHDC)/Apex Societies etc. To upgrade and modernize the handicrafts sector, the Government implements the scheme of Design & Technology, Upgradation, which aims to provide improved tools/equipments to craftspersons improvement and diversification of their products, development of new design and prototypes and upgradation of artisans skills. Further under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY) assistance is also provided for setting up Common Facility Centres (CFC) equipped with appropriate Machineries/Technology etc.

(d) No funds are not allocated state-wise under TUFS and TCIDS. Under TUFS including 12% CLCS-TUFS, 3266 units with a project cost of Rs. 20,007 crore have been sanctioned an amount of Rs. 9051 crore upto 30th Sept., 2004. Out of this, 2756 unit were disbursed an amount of Rs. 6156 crore. Under 20% CLCS-TUFS, as on 31.10.2004, 138 cases have been received from banks with a total investment in machinery of Rs. 28.01 crore. The subsidy amount for the cases works out to be Rs. 5.60 crore. Out of the above 138 cases, a subsidy amount of Rs. 2.63 crore have been released in respect of 70 cases.

Handloom Sector: Statement showing the funds allocated for the Plan Schemes, during the last three years State-wise, is at Statement-I.

Handicraft Sector: There is no State-wise budget allocation. The schemes of the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts are not state specific and

are being implemented throughout the country as grants-in-aid schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporation/Apex Societies, NGO's etc. However, the funds released to various implementing agencies under these schemes in different states during the last three years are at Statement-II.

Statement I

State-wise released made during last three years under different Handloom Plan Schemes

				(Rs. in lakhs)
Sl.No.	Name of State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	66.92	20.76
2.	Andhra Pradesh	70.07	1320.94	1784.14
3.	Assam	10.26	1131.92	762.86
4.	Bihar	6.50	6.25	12.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	89.71	46.63
6.	Goa	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	0.87	52.25	64.18
8.	Haryana	16.98	17.75	35.26
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	201.32	173.32
10.	Jharkhand	—	8.60	—
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	85.31	40.76
12.	Karnataka	—	498.57	451.40
13.	Kerala	43.44	1152.17	821.84
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	114.20	45.23
15.	Maharashtra	—	106.24	11.66
16.	Manipur	—	608.57	115.79
17.	Mizoram	—	53.98	32.19
18.	Meghalaya	0.28	19.73	3.91
19.	Nagaland	—	163.88	1114.22
20.	Orissa	12.45	40.34	78.03

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
22.	Punjab	0.52	21.10	—
23.	Rajasthan	18.02	86.53	122.14
24.	Sikkim	—	2.97	—
25.	Tamil Nadu	—	2982.48	2619.46
26.	Tripura	5.15	27.35	35.98
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31.22	872.09	1070.08
28.	Uttaranchal	—	79.22	10.13
29.	West Bengal	—	401.67	180.45
30.	Delhi	3.33	164.02	112.00
Total		219.09	10375.90	9765.04

Statement II*State-wise funds released during last three years under Handicrafts sector*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	116.28	136.94	212.04
2.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.84	0.00	0.00
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	197.84	13.65	28.12
4.	Assam	133.60	212.36	267.29
5.	Bihar	82.31	11.80	9.64
6.	Chhattisgarh	185.18	10.09	22.58
7.	Chandigarh	0.00	6.44	15.10
8.	Delhi	516.24	759.84	1147.67
9.	Goa	0.98	128.15	2.77
10.	Gujarat	84.20	35.42	108.80
11.	Haryana	34.45	40.24	57.24
12.	Himachal Pradesh	96.05	116.32	130.90

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	42.04	107.58	292.98
14.	Jharkhand	62.81	8.87	11.98
15.	Karnataka	95.62	32.74	72.08
16.	Kerala	20.79	24.68	89.28
17.	Madhya Pradesh	138.70	146.88	144.07
18.	Maharashtra	54.68	56.66	124.11
19.	Manipur	34.55	40.21	33.61
20.	Meghalaya	4.42	16.60	7.70
21.	Mizoram	20.42	17.67	33.63
22.	Nagaland	63.55	128.33	93.24
23.	Orissa	77.42	90.43	140.50
24.	Punjab	30.33	20.58	44.86
25.	Pondicherry	5.89	1.10	0.48
26.	Rajasthan	48.48	68.93	196.64
27.	Sikkim	10.81	0.00	0.00
28.	Tamil Nadu	35.08	33.75	74.55
29.	Tripura	46.60	32.46	39.51
30.	Uttar Pradesh	262.94	329.87	321.37
31.	Uttaranchal	50.98	38.75	111.63
32.	West Bengal	62.65	74.88	195.66
	Total	2618.773	2742.22	4030.03

Loan by Banks

534. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of terms loan provided by various public sector banks during current financial year, bank-wise;

(b) whether taking loans from banks is very difficult whereas it is regularly announced that the procedure of loan has been simplified;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to streamline this system so that better services can be provided to the common man by the banks?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Reserve Bank has advised banks to prepare well-defined Loan Policy and Loan Recovery Policy

approved by their Board of Directors. The Loan Policy should lay down exposure limits to individual/group of borrowers, documentation standards, Sectoral exposure limits, delegation of powers including for write-off and review procedures maturity and pricing policies, factors to be taken into consideration for deciding interest rates above the floor rate etc.

Negotiation Forum for RRBs

535. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the forum of negotiation at the Regional Rural Bank, sponsor Bank level and federal level as per order issued by the Government;

(b) whether the Government has not yet considered for Negotiating Forum for the RRB Staff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) With a view to developing healthy industrial relations in RRBs, the sponsor banks have already been advised on 23rd April, 1998 to set up some machinery for consultation with the employees of the RRBs.

Repo Rate Hike by RBI

536. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has hiked the Repo rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that this hike will increase the home loan rates of various banks in the country;

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

(e) the reasons for hike of the Repo rate by the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 4.50% to 4.75% with effect from October 27, 2004.

(c) and (d) The lending rates by banks for loans above Rs. 2 lakhs have been deregulated, leaving it to banks to decide their own lending rates based on, amongst other factors, their risk perception of activity/borrower, cost of funds, availability of funds, etc. The repo facility under the LAF is essentially operated by RBI for appropriate adjustment of liquidity on a day-to-day basis. Among the banks having large shares of housing loan market, State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank have recently raised their housing loan rates by 25-75 basis points. SBI has increased its interest rates on home loans by 0.50 percentage point in respect of floating interest rate and 0.25-0.50 percentage point in respect of fixed interest rate loans with effect from November 29, 2004. ICICI Bank has raised its home loan rates by 0.75 percentage point for fixed rate loans and 0.50 percentage point for floating rate loans from November 16, 2004. In addition, HDFC raised its floating home loan rates by 0.50 percentage point on November 20, 2004 leaving the fixed rates unchanged.

(e) The repo rate was raised by RBI keeping in view the prevailing macro-economic and overall monetary conditions.

Special Agro Credit Project

537. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab National Bank has launched Special Agro Credit Project for encouraging farmers in Rajasthan to cultivate non-conventional medicinal, aromatic and herbal crops;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which this project is likely to benefit farmers in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Punjab National Bank (PNB) has not launched any Special Agro Credit Project in Rajasthan to cultivate non conventional crops like, medicinal, aromatic herbal crops. However, PNB has been encouraging farmers in Rajasthan through Kissan Goshthis and field visit to cultivate non-conventional crops like, medicinal, aromatic herbal crops to derive benefits arising out of diversification in agriculture. The Bank has so far financed to the tune of Rs. 36.25 lakhs for cultivation of herbal/medicinal plants by farmers in Rajasthan.

Creation of Additional Posts of Notary Public

538. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to create additional post of Notary Public in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the ratio of population for which one Notary is appointed by the Union Government;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that exorbitant fees are demanded by the Notaries;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to standardize the fees taken by Notaries for the services rendered by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Quotas/maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government and State Governments/Union Territories have been specified in the Schedule to the Notaries Rules.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. The fees to be charged by a notary for doing notarial act is already specified in the Notaries Rules.

Formation of Pharmacil in contravention of its own Guidelines

539. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether Pharmaceutical exporter can register either with Chemexcil or Pharmacil Export Promotion Council;

(b) membership strength of pharmaceutical exporter of both these Export Promotion Council separately;

(c) the justification of the Government action in notifying formation of Pharmacil in contravention of its own guidelines laid down for formation of export councils/forums;

(d) rationale behind having the headquarter of Pharmacil at Hyderabad constituting not more than 25 per cent of the total export of pharmaceutical Industry;

(e) whether Government is considering the transfer of headquarter from Hyderabad to other metro cities; and

(f) percentage of chemxcil members petitioned to form Pharmacil and the steps taken to verify the genuineness of exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) As per DGFT notification, a pharmaceutical exporter desiring to obtain RCMC shall apply to Pharmexcil. However, the exporter has the option to take the membership of any other Export Promotion Council in addition.

(b) Chemexcil has 2147 pharmaceutical exporters while Pharmexcil has about 400 members.

(c) The Council was notified after the Industry fulfilled the criterion of raising a corpus fund of Rs. 3.00 crores. There is no violation of guidelines. EPC for export promotion of drugs and pharmaceuticals has been set up to take advantage of the growth of the sector.

(d) The choice of location of Hyderabad as the headquarters was that of the Industry and not imposed by the Government.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No request has been received from Chemexcil for formation of a separate Council.

Amendment in the Representation of People Act

540. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make amendments in the Representation of People Act in view of the corruption prevailing in the politics;

(b) if so, by when;

(c) whether the Government also propose to formulate any code of conduct in respect of elected representatives of people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (e) The proposals on electoral reforms emanating from the judgments of the Supreme Court and High Courts and from the recommendations of the Election Commission of India, Law Commission of India and other bodies are under consideration of the Government. The process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process. No time frame, therefore, can be indicated in this regard.

Export of Brass-Ware Items

541. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of brass-ware items of handicraft exported during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned as a result thereof in the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of brass-ware items of handicraft?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Quantity-wise export data on handicrafts including brass-ware is not maintained. However, the foreign exchange earned from the export of art metal wares, including brass-ware, during the last three years is as under:-

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Years	Export
2001-02	1460.74
2002-03	2114.84
2003-04	2642.42

(c) The steps taken to promote the export of handicrafts including brass-ware include:- participation in international fairs and exhibitions abroad; organizing buyers sellers meets; Indian handicrafts gifts fair at New Delhi; overseas publicity; development of products as per market demand; dissemination of market intelligence amongst exporters; organizing seminars/workshops on export

procedure, marketing including packaging and setting up of India Exposition Mart at Greater Noida.

Irregularities in Bharat Cooperative Bank

542. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the irregularities and malpractices indulged by the Management of the Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Limited;

(b) whether the public representative has also brought various irregularities and malpractices committed by the management of the Bharat Co-operative Bank (Mumbai) Limited to the notice of the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of such enquiry and action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had received few complaints indicating certain allegations against the bank's management. The bank was last inspected with reference to its financial position as on December 31, 2003. During the course of inspection these allegations were also looked into.

(b) The public representative as well as the Co-operative Bank Employees Union have brought certain allegations relating to banking areas and malpractices by the management to the notice of RBI.

(c) to (e) The statutory inspection revealed that the overall financial position of the bank was satisfactory with regard to CRAR, net NPAs, compliance with CRR and SLR and profitability. The inspection, however, revealed certain deficiencies in the appraisal of credit proposals and post disbursement supervision of advances, including overdrawals in certain Cash Credit Accounts etc. The bank was advised by the RBI to rectify the deficiencies pointed out in the Inspection Report. The allegations till that time were also looked into during the statutory inspection and it was observed that there were certain procedural lapses for which the bank was advised to take remedial measures. However, the findings did not indicate any malafides.

Further a scrutiny was conducted on November 22-23, 2004, to look into the allegations relating to banking related areas. Appropriate action will be taken on the findings of the Inspection Report by RBI in due course.

Banks Operating in the Country

543. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the bank-branches operating in the country presently;

(b) whether the Government particularly keeping in view the need of the rural areas, propose to open branches of the banks in the country; and

(c) if so, details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of the branches of the commercial banks presently operating in the country, as on 30.9.2004 in various States/UTs, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) As per RBI's extant policy, it is left to the discretion of the Banks themselves to assess the need for opening additional branches in any area of the country, considering certain factors such as business potential, viability, infrastructure, security, etc. The RBI encourages the banks for opening more branches in rural areas and gives priority to such requests. The RBI has issued 43 authorisations to the banks for opening of branches at rural centres during the current year from 1.4.2004 to 31.10.2004.

Statement

Number of branches of Commercial Banks as on 30th September 2004 in various States/U.Ts.

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	33
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5323
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	66

1	2	3
4.	Assam	1225
5.	Bihar	3568
6.	Chandigarh	193
7.	Chhattisgarh	1043
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12
9.	Daman and Diu	16
10.	Delhi	1586
11.	Goa	335
12.	Gujarat	3676
13.	Haryana	1635
14.	Himachal Pradesh	787
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	850
16.	Jharkhand	1477
17.	Karnataka	4895
18.	Kerala	3459
19.	Lakshadweep	9
20.	Madhya Pradesh	3472
21.	Maharashtra	6400
22.	Manipur	76
23.	Meghalaya	181
24.	Mizoram	78
25.	Nagaland	71
26.	Orissa	2253
27.	Pondicherry	84
28.	Punjab	2667
29.	Rajasthan	3375
30.	Sikkim	50
31.	Tamil Nadu	4790
32.	Tripura	180
33.	Uttar Pradesh	8238

1	2	3
34.	Uttaranchal	871
35.	West Bengal	4475
	All India	67449

Non-Audit of Accounts of Autonomous Bodies

544. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees have been released by the Government to autonomous bodies in the last five years and whether information has not been furnished by the concerned Ministries of the amount released by them consequent to which C&AG could not audit the accounts of those bodies;

(b) if so, the reasons for the Ministries not furnishing the amount released by them to autonomous bodies together with the purpose for which amounts released;

(c) the details of the bodies to whom these amounts have released Ministry-wise alongwith the amount released; and

(d) whether any fresh grants were further released without ensuring utilization of the previous grants and the action Government propose to take against those Ministries?

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

Low Utilisation of Plan Funds for Agricultural Sector

545. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the plan funds for the agriculture sector has low utilisation rate;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the utilisation of the plan resources for agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Palatial Houses Disproportionate to the Owners Income

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to survey and formulate scheme to see the palatial houses coming up in the urban and outskirts of the big cities, disproportionate to the income of the owners and unearh and source of income for such activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan to recover the taxable dues from such defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Income Tax Department undertakes surveys/searches in appropriate cases where assets disproportionate to the declared sources of income come to the knowledge of the Department. There is, at present, no proposal to formulate any special scheme to verify disproportionate assets to persons owing palatial houses in the urban areas and outskirts of big cities.

Special Plan Assistance to Bihar

547. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently approved a special plan assistance to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crores over three years for the State of Bihar;

(b) if so, the projects/programmes for which the assistance approved the Government;

(c) whether the Government has set up any machinery to assess the implementation of the projects/programmes for which allocation under the special plan assistance has been made by the Government and also to see that the amount allocated is spent on these projects/programmes and is not diverted to other projects/programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the manner in which Government proposes to exercise such an assessment?

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

(b) The schemes/programmes so far identified for implementation are Million Shallow Tubewell Programme, Strengthening of Sub-Transmission System, Restoration of Eastern Gandak Canal, Development of State Highways, Development of Horticulture, Integrated Watershed Development Programme and Integrated Community Based forest Management.

(c) and (d) The implementation of individual schemes is to be supervised by the concerned Central Ministry/identified implementing agency. Planning Commission is responsible for periodical review of the progress of the schemes/programmes.

(e) Does not arise.

Merger of Banks

548. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee on consolidation has been formed by Indian Banks Association (IBA) to study Public Sector Banks merger;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign banks are allowed to increase their stake by 10 percent each year in Indian Banks through creeping route; and

(d) if so, the guidelines of SEBI in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Working Group on Consolidation in Indian banking system was constituted by IBA in July, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Shri Leeladhar, the then Chairman of IBA to study legal, regulatory and other issues connected with bank merger. While, corporatisation of public sector banks was suggested as a long-term measure to facilitate consolidation, the Working Group also suggested measures that could be examined within the existing legal and regulatory framework.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pharmaceutical Companies

549. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
MOHD. MUKEEM:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the top pharmaceutical companies had been siphoning of the funds through licensing arrangements with their associate/subsidiary companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith name of such companies;

(c) whether cost audit reports of companies such as Cipla, Ranbaxy, Dr. Reddy, Sun Pharma, Nicholas Pirmal, Torrent, US vitamins, Cadila Health Care, Cadila Pharmaceuticals, IPCA, Lupin, WOCKHARDT, Unichem, Aurbindo Pharma, Glenmark have not been analysed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) There are no findings available with this Ministry of siphoning of funds by the pharmaceutical companies through licensing arrangement with their associate/subsidiary companies.

(c) and (d) Cost audit of all the companies listed in part (c) is carried out under section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956. A statement indicating the names of the companies in question for which cost audit reports have been sent to National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and Department of Expenditure for their analysis/study is enclosed as Statement.

(e) and (f) The compliance with section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956 is monitored in the Ministry of Company Affairs. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority/Department of Expenditure are availing cost audit reports from this Ministry for cost/price related studies. The Government undertakes investigation as per the provisions of the law whenever any specific allegation of siphoning of funds etc. warranting investigation is noticed.

Statement**Status on review of Cost Audit Reports of selected pharmaceutical companies**

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Cost Audit Reports sent to	for the year
I. For Bulk Drugs			
1.	Cipla Ltd.	NPPA*	2002-03
2.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
3.	Dr. Reddy's Labs. Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
4.	Nicholas Piramal India Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
5.	Cadila Health Care Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
6.	Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
7.	IPCA Labs. Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
8.	Unichem Laboratories Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
9.	Aurobindo Pharma Ltd.	NPPA	2002-03
II. For Formulations			
1.	Cipla Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
2.	Dr. Reddy's Labs. Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
3.	Sun Pharma Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
4.	Nicholas Piramal India Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
5.	Torrent Laboratories Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
6.	US V Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
7.	Cadila Health Care Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
8.	Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
9.	IPCA Labs. Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03
10.	Unichem Laboratories Ltd.	Deptt. of Expenditure	31.03.03

*National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority.

Separate High Court for Haryana

550. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps regarding constitution of a separate High Court for Haryana;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by when the separate High Court of Haryana is likely to be constituted; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) Establishment of a separate High Court of Haryana would depend upon the shifting of its capital from Chandigarh and also developing infrastructure for a new High Court within the State of Haryana.

[*Translation*]**Revision of Electoral Rolls**

551. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has, for the first time, decided to utilise the services of Post Offices for country-wide revision of Electoral Rolls by providing them with required manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Electoral Roll are likely to be revised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission of India has informed that it has decided to associate countrywide Post Offices also in the exercise of revision of electoral rolls and laid detailed procedural guidelines for the purpose. Under the scheme, the Post Offices have been identified as 'Designated Locations' where draft electoral rolls can be published and displayed for the benefit of public. The Post Offices will maintain various Forms for the purpose and will provide the same to the public free of cost. They will also accept filled up application forms from the individuals or members of his family, but not receive applications in bulk. The postman while on his beat would ascertain whether the particulars furnished by the individuals in different forms tally.

(c) A Statement containing the schedule of revision of electoral rolls issued by the Election Commission of India is enclosed.

Statement***Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls—Programme-2005***

(As on 30.11.2004)

Sl. No.	Name of States/U.Ts.	Revision type	Stage of revision						
			House to House enumeration	Preparation of manuscript, comparison of manuscript with relevant parts of the previous electoral roll of 2004 data entry of new electors and carrying out corrections, whenever necessary in respect of the data base, generation of check list, comparison thereof and printing of draft roll. Supply of electoral rolls and Forms 6, 7, 8, 8A to area Post Offices	Draft publication on	Period for filing of claims & objections and reading of relevant part/section of electoral roll in	Disposal of claims and objections by	Preparation and printing of supplements of Additions, deletions and corrections by	Final publication of rolls on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	Intensive	Revision deferred due to Legislative Assembly election held in October, 2004, Schedule is being finalized.						
2.	Assam (Except AC No. 115)	Intensive	01.10.2004 to 25.11.2004 (Except Kamrup Distt.)	26.11.2004 to 05.04.2005	07.04.2005	07.04.2005 to 21.04.2005	12.05.2005	30.05.2005	31.05.2005
	AC No. 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 & 55 of Kamrup Distt.	Intensive	01.10.2004 to 02.12.2004	03.12.2004 to 05.04.2005	07.04.2005	07.04.2005 to 21.04.2005	12.05.2005	30.05.2005	31.05.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	AC No. 115	Intensive	18.11.2004 to 20.12.2004	21.12.2004 to 05.04.2005	07.04.2005	07.04.2005 to 22.04.2005	12.05.2005	30.05.2005	31.05.2005
3.	Jammu & Kashmir (⊙ Except AC No. 25, 46, 64, 79)	Intensive	02.08.2004 to 03.09.2004	04.09.2004 to 28.10.2004	31.12.2004	31.12.2004 to 31.01.2005	23.02.2005	10.03.2005	13.03.2005
4.	Manipur (⊙ Except AC No. 18)	Intensive	01.10.2004 to 30.10.2004	01.11.2004 to 21.12.2004	22.12.2004	22.12.2004 to 15.01.2005	07.02.2005	21.02.2005	24.02.2005
5.	Meghalaya	Intensive	05.10.2004 to 19.11.2004	20.11.2004 to 20.12.2004	21.12.2004	22.12.2004 to 24.01.2005	21.02.2005	15.03.2005	21.03.2005
6.	Mizoram	Intensive	02.08.2004 to 03.10.2004	04.10.2004 to 28.11.2004	20.12.2004	20.12.2004 to 10.01.2005	09.02.2005	28.02.2005	01.03.2005
7.	Nagaland	Intensive	01.09.2004 to 14.10.2004	11.10.2004 to 30.01.2005	31.01.2005	01.02.2005 to 15.02.2005	28.02.2005	15.03.2005	20.03.2005
8.	Tripura	Intensive	03.09.2004 to 14.10.2004	15.10.2004 to 13.12.2004	14.12.2004	14.12.2004 to 13.12.2004	21.01.2005	09.02.2005	10.02.2005

⊙ Where bye-elections were held in October, 2004. Schedule is being finalized.

Special Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls-Programme-2005

(As on 30.11.2004)

Sl. No.	Name of States/U.Ts.	Revision type	Stage of revision					
			Draft Publication on	Period for filing of claims & objections and reading of relevant part/section of electoral roll in Gram Sabha/Urban Local Bodies and Resident Welfare Association Meetings etc.	Special campaign dates for receiving claims and objections at all designated locations	Disposal of claims and objections by	Preparation and printing of supplements of Additions, deletions and corrections by	Final publication of Electoral Rolls on
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh (Except AC No. 213, 220)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	25 & 26.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 213, 220		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.2004 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4 & 5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
2.	Bihar (Except 17 Districts**) and (Except 21-Madhepura PC-Assembly Segment No. 115, 116, 120 to 123)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Upto 30.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	17 Districts**		15.10.2004	Upto 23.11.2004	16 & 17.10.2004 06 & 07.11.2004	—	—	—
	21-Madhepura PC- Assembly Segment No. 115, 116, 120 to 123		27.10.2004	Upto 23.11.2005	30 & 31.10.2004 06 & 07.11.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
3.	Chhattisgarh	Spl. Summary	07.02.2005	07.02.2005 18.02.2005	12, 13, 19 & 20 Feb., 2005	21.03.2005	04.04.2005	11.04.2005
4.	Goa (Except AC No. 40)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 10.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	25 & 26.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 40		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.2004 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4 & 5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
5.	Gujarat (Except AC No. 29, 103, 138, 164, 179)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 29, 103, 138, 164, 179		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.2004 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4 & 5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
6.	Haryana (Except AC No. 8 & 38)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 8 & 38 - Printing of rolls with photographs		29.09.2004	Between 29.09.2004 and 29.10.2004	6, 7, 23 & 24.10.2004	06.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
7.	Himachal Pradesh (Except AC No. 1 & AC No. 37)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	1-Kinnaur (ST) AC		16.12.2004	16 to 31.12.2004	—	Upto 31.01.05	—	15.02.2005
	AC No. 37		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.2004 and 10.12.2004 4 & 5.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
8.	Jharkhand	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Upto 30.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 9 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
9.	Karnataka (Except 8 ACs under PC No. 1)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	19 & 26.09.2004 03, 09 & 10.10.2004	23.12.2004	23.02.2005	28.02.2005
	\$ Municipal Corporation	Spl. Summary	01.10.2004	Between 01.10.2004 and 23.11.2004	09 & 10.10.2004 17 & 24.10.2004	23.12.2004	23.02.2005	28.02.2005
	AC No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 & 9 within PC No. 1-Bidar	Spl. Summary	16.11.2004	Between 16.11.2004 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 04 & 05.12.2004	—	Between 11.11.2004 and 27.02.2005	28.02.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10.	Kerala	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 30.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Spl. Summary	07.02.2005 28.02.2005	07.02.005 Feb., 2005	12, 13, 19 & 20	21.03.2005	04.04.2005	11.04.2005
12.	Maharashtra	Summary	Revision deferred due to Legislative Assembly election held in October, 2004. Schedule is being finalized.					
13.	Orissa	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
14.	Punjab (Except AC. No. 20, 41, 45)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 41 & 45		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.04 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4 & 5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
	AC No 20		28.01.2005	Between 28.01.05 and 18.02.2005	—	18.03.2005	18.04.2005	25.04.2005
15.	Rajasthan	Spl. Summary	07.12.2004	Between 07.12.2004 and 21.12.2004	18 & 19.12.2004	15.03.2005	30.03.2005	31.03.2005
16.	Sikkim	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
17.	#Tamil Nadu	Programme is being finalized						
18.	Uttaranchal (Except AC No. 45)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 45		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.04 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4&5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
19.	Uttar Pradesh (Except 10 ACs failing under PC No. 23 & 65) and AC No. 69, 120, 124, 144, 220, 235, 252, 261, 356, 359, 372, 394 where revision was deferred due to bye-elections	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	15.12.2004	17.01.2005	20.01.2005

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	AC No. 69, 120, 124, 144 220, 235, 261, 356, 359, 372 & 394 AC No. 113, 114, 115, 116 & 117 falling under PC No. 23 AC No. 321, 322, 324, 325 & 326 falling under PC No. 65 and AC No. 252. (Total 11 ACs).		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.04 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4 & 5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
			Schedule to be finalized after bye-election in PC No. 23 and 65 to be held in December, 2004					
20.	West Bengal (Except AC No. 21, 25, 141, 142, 153)	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
	AC No. 84 and 86, 93 to 98 and 87			Upto 8.11.2004				
	AC No. 21, 25, 141, 142 & 153		16.11.2004	Between 16.11.2004 and 10.12.2004	20 & 21.11.2004 4&5.12.2004	31.12.2004	17.01.2005	21.01.2005
21.	A & N Islands	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
22.	Chandigarh	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	31.01.2005	10.02.2005	15.02.2005
23.	Daman & Diu	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 12.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
24.	D & N Haveli	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
25.	NCT of Delhi	Spl. Summary	10.01.2005	Between 10.01.2005 and 10.02.2005	15 & 16.01.2005 29 & 30.01.2005	31.03.2005	29.04.2005	30.04.2005
26.	Lakshadweep	Spl. Summary	15.09.2004	Between 15.09.2004 and 15.10.2004	18 & 19.09.2004 09 & 10.10.2004	01.12.2004	31.12.2004	03.01.2005
27.	Pondichery	Spl. Summary	17.01.2005	Upto 15.02.2005	29 & 30.01.2005 12 & 13.02.2005	31.03.2005	15.04.2005	18.04.2005

** District of Purnea, Araria, Kishanganj, Katihar, Saharsa, Supaul, Madhepura, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani, East Champaran, West Champaran, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Muzaffarpur, Khagaria and Begusarai in Bihar State.

\$ Municipal Corporation areas of Bangalore, Hubli-Dharwar, Mysore, Mangalore, Belgaum and Gluberga and three Assembly segments of Bangalore District.

Intensive in AC No. 1 to 14, 17 to 20, 88 to 91, 104 to 107, 141 to 145, 165 to 168 and 218-219 falling partly or wholly in Municipal Corporation Areas in the districts of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai and Tirunelveli. In rest of the constituencies a Special Summary Revision is being undertaken.

Pending Court Cases

552. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV:
SHRI ANJAN KUMAR M. YADAV:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

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

(a) whether a large number of civil, criminal and service matter cases are pending with Supreme Court and various High Courts for more than five years;

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

(c) the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the long pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength, grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Statement

Pendency of matters before the Supreme Court for more than five years is 1943 as on 1.7.2004

Category-wise pending cases for more than five years in the High Courts

Sl.No.	High Courts	Civil cases	Criminal cases	Total	As on
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Allahabad	466851	88568	555419	30.6.04
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36803	1017	37820	30.6.04
3.	Bombay	119690	12296	131986	30.6.04
4.	Calcutta	115969	29809	145778	30.6.04
5.	Delhi	36288	3270	39558	31.12.03
6.	Gujarat	54938	11191	66129	31.3.04
7.	Guwahati	3439	516	3955	31.12.04
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2192	428	2620	30.6.04
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3630	217	3847	30.6.04
10.	Karnataka	4813	589	5402	31.9.04
11.	Kerala	19113	3212	22325	31.3.04
12.	Madras	37022	2165	39187	30.6.04

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23882	19721	43603	30.6.04
14.	Orissa	49524	4004	53528	30.6.04
15.	Patna	11066	1831	12897	31.3.04
16.	Punjab & Haryana	94899	11367	106288	30.6.04
17.	Rajasthan	45428	13148	58576	30.6.04
18.	Sikkim	0	0	0	30.9.04
19.	Uttaranchal	12004	1884	13888	30.6.04
20.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	NA
21.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	NA
Total		1137551	205233	1342784	

Progress in Farm Lending

553. SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is reviewing the progress made in farm lending;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government has decided to call the Indian Banks Association meeting of all the Chairmen of banks with RBI Governor to review the progress made up to August, 2004;

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether all bank managers would also be held accountable in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to take services of agriculture experts, while providing loan to farmers;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action proposed to be taken by the Government against banks for failure in achieving the desired target and not following the directions of Reserve Bank of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (g) The progress in implementation of the announcement made by the Government on 18.6.2004 for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and allied activities in 3 years and to achieve the growth of 30% in disbursement during the year 2004-05 is being reviewed on a regular basis by the Government and NABARD. A meeting was also taken by the Finance Minister on 9.9.2004 with Chief Executives of Public Sector Banks, NABARD, RBI and IBA to review the progress in credit disbursement to farmers. Subsequently, review meetings were also convened by NABARD on regular intervals. The credit disbursement during April-September, 2004 to agriculture sector was Rs. 53591 crores as against Rs. 36792 crores during the corresponding period last year, thereby registering a growth of 46%. All concerned have assured to take necessary measures for achieving the credit disbursement target of Rs. 104500 crores during 2004-05.

Banks have also been advised to recruit more agriculture graduates for staffing rural branches of commercial banks to enhance the flow of credit to farmers.

[English]

Investment Management Teams

554. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) has directed all the insurance companies

to constitute their in-house Investment Management Teams (IMTs) by December 31, 2004 to ensure proper control over the policy holders;

(b) if so, the details of the regulatory works to be done by the proposed IMTs;

(c) the time by which the full time actuarial professionals are proposed to be appointed to replace proposed IMTs in all the insurance companies; and

(d) the other measures proposed to be introduced to ensure better accountability of the insurance companies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority (IRDA) under the powers vested in it under section 34 of Insurance Act, 1938 has directed all insurers to manage their investment portfolios in-house through an Investment Committee of the respective Board and not out-source the same. As per Section 9(1) of IRDA (Investment) Regulation, 2000, the Investment Committee, shall consist of minimum of two non-executive directors of the Insurer, the Principal Officer, Chiefs of Finance, and Investment divisions, and wherever appointed actuary is employed, the Appointed Actuary. The insurers have also been advised to terminate the out-sourcing agreements and transfer the functions "in-houses" latest by 31st December, 2004.

(d) So far as life and non-life public sector insurance companies are concerned, they are governed by the Insurance Act 1938 and IRDA (Investment) Regulations, 2000 as amended from time to time.

[Translation]

New Jute Policy

555. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government proposes to formulate a new jute policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the government is abolishing jute packaging and materials act (JPMA);

(d) if so, the reasons thereof;

(e) whether the government proposes to give any special package to the sick jute industry in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles is in the process of formulating a comprehensive Jute policy. Recommendations on the matter have been received and are under process. Details are being arrived at.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is at present is under consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) As per existing statute, cases of sick unit are referred to BIFR, a quasi judicial body to examine the cases for rehabilitation of every sick unit. Thereafter, the revival scheme of the units are prepared/examined by the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR which is normally a financial institution. On receipt of the scheme, BIFR decides the cases or rehabilitation of the individual units.

[English]

Import of Spices

556. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Kerala Government has highlighted the problems being faced by the State due to excessive import of pepper, tea and cardamom from other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details on the proposals made by Kerala Government to solve these problems and the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take so that Indo-Sri Lanka free trade agreement is not misused?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of

Kerala has, *inter-alia*, highlighted that import of agricultural commodities like pepper have increased considerably. It has been mentioned that increase in imports of pepper is also attributed to duty free import of pepper under India Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA). It has been felt that substantial increase in the imports has attributed to fall in prices. It has also been alleged that imported pepper and cardamom of inferior quality is mixed with Indian items of premium quality which might damage the reputation of Indian product in the international markets. It has also been stated that the products of other country origins are entering India under the guise of ISLFTA to take advantage of the concessional duty regime. Government of Kerala has also highlighted the issue relating to increase in tea imports for re-export.

(c) Among other things, the proposals made by the Government of Kerala focussing on above highlighted problem are as follows:

- Review of the concessional duty regime.
- Imposition of a quantity cap on import of pepper from Sri Lanka.
- Entry of pepper into India through selected ports having Plant Quarantine and quality control facilities.
- Strict implementation of the rules of Origin. A Government authorised agency should be allowed to issue the Certificate of Origin.
- Review of the Policy of allowing free import of commodities for re-export.
- Import of tea be curbed.

Since India is a signatory to the Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka, trade between both the countries has to be carried out in terms of the provisions of this agreement. As a general policy of the Government to give thrust to the exports of value added products, imports are allowed duty free for the purposes of re-exports. Value added items realise better prices in the

international market. In so far as fall in prices of pepper and cardamom is concerned, they are reflective of international prices.

(d) The Government took up the issue with Sri Lankan authorities at the last Commerce Secretary level talks in August 2004. The import of sensitive products is monitored by the Office of Directorate-General of Foreign Trade.

Decline in Exports

557. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) whether export from India particularly in garments, gems and jewellery has declined considerably during the last few years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any assessment has been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check this decline in the Indian exports;

(e) the details of success achieved in this direction; and

(f) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the country through the export of gems and jewellery, during the last four years year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir. India's exports of garments and gems & jewellery have not declined. On the contrary they have registered a positive growth in the last few years which is high for most of the years. The growth rates of these items are given below.

Value in US million dollar

	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Value	Growth Rate(%)	Value	Growth (%)	Value	Growth (%)
Total Exports	52719	20.3	63455	20.44	40291	23.7
Gems & Jewellery	9029.94	23.59	10509.79	16.38	4090.8 (Apr-July)	45.9
Readymade garments	5689.91	13.64	6088.42	7.00	2007.38 (Apr-July)	14.9

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

(f) The value of exports of gems & jewellery in dollar terms during the last four years is as under:

(US million dollar)

Year	Value of exports
2000-01	7384.01
2001-02	7306.28
2002-03	9029.94
2003-04	10509.79

Export of Iron Ore

558. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) whether any proposal to stop export of iron ore with a view to encourage setting up of steel plants in the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the year-wise average export of iron ore and countries to which it is being exported;

(c) whether assessment of export and its likely impact on export-imported and foreign exchange earning has been made;

(d) the strategies being worked out to rectify foreign exchange imbalances;

(e) the quantum of iron ore produced by various states during last three years for export purposes;

(f) whether China has evinced keen interest in increasing the import of iron ore from India; and

(g) if so, the details of the orders placed by China for 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Iron ore in the States is not produced exclusively for export purposes. The iron ore, which does not have a ready market in India and is left surplus after meeting the demand of domestic consumers and the MMTC, is allowed to be exported.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The details of export orders for iron ore are not centrally maintained as most of the exports to China, being of iron ore with iron content less than 64%, is freely exportable. According to M/s MMTC, they have received export orders from China for a quantity of 7.39 Million Metric Tonnes for the year 2004-05.

[Translation]

High Court Benches

559. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI SURESH ANGADI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) the States which have submitted proposal for setting up of High Court Benches during the last three years;

(b) the States where High Court Benches have been set up during the above period with their locations; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to set up these Benches in other States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) Action is taken by the Central Government for setting up of Benches of a High Court at places other than the principal seat only on receipt of a complete proposal from the concerned State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court. No complete proposal has been received from any of the States during the last three years for setting up of Benches of High Courts.

During the last three years, one permanent Bench of the Madras High Court has been set up at Madurai. However, a complete proposal from the State of West Bengal with concurrence of the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court was received in the year 2000. The setting of the Permanent bench at Jalpaiguri in pursuance

to the proposal, is awaiting confirmation of the infrastructural arrangements for the bench by the Calcutta High Court.

[English]

ADB Assistance

560. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has offered to provide assistance upto \$ 6.47 bn. to India over the next three years, according to ADB's strategy and programme update released recently;

(b) if so, the areas of development and the extent of aid proposed to be given for each areas under the strategy; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the proper utilization of this aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The proposed sectors are Agriculture and Natural Resources, Energy, Finance, Law, Economic Management and Public Policy; Multi sector-Urban Development; and Transport and Communications.

(c) Government of India is taking all steps to ensure speedy and proper utilization of funds, through administrative streamlining of user agencies.

Jute Mills in West Bengal

561. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of jute mills under NJMC and private sector in each state;

(b) the total number of sick and closed down jute mills out of them;

(c) the details of government plans to revive/reopen the sick and closed jute mills;

(d) the total number of workers affected by the sick and closer phenomenon of jute mills;

(e) whether there is any plan to rehabilitate the affected workers; and

(f) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There are six jute mills under National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJMC), five in West Bengal and one in Bihar. Two State Governments Mills are located in West Bengal and one Jute Mill in Public Sector are located each in the States of Assam, Orissa and Tripura. In the Private Sector, there are 54 mills in West Bengal, two in Bihar, seven in Andhra Pradesh, three in Uttar Pradesh and one in Chhattisgarh.

(b) The total number of sick Jute Mills are 37. There are 19 jute mills which are closed since periods varying from two months to two years.

(c) As per existing statute, cases of sick unit are referred to BIFR, a quasi-judicial body to examine the cases for rehabilitation of every sick unit. Thereafter, the revival scheme of the units are prepared/examined by the Operating Agency appointed by BIFR which is normally a financial institution. On receipt of the scheme, BIFR decides the cases or rehabilitation of the individual units.

(d) The total number of workers (permanent and others) engaged in the sick and close mill is around 1,31,601 who have been affected by the sickness/closer of the jute mills.

(e) and (f) Government of India has recognized and provided for safeguarding the interests of workers in certain textile units, which have been unviable and would close permanently. The Textile Workers' Rehabilitation fund Scheme to provide interim relief to workmen rendered unemployed as a consequence to the permanent closure/liquidation of the textile units in the private sector, is also applicable to jute textile sector. Government of India offers attractive VRS benefits to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings, which fall under such category of sick mills.

Visit of World Bank President

562. SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank President visited India recently and discussed about the success of bank funded schemes with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fresh lending to India also figured during the discussion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The World Bank President visited India during November 16-19, 2004. Achievements made and roadmap for development in sectors like power, water resources, railways and road transport & highways were discussed during the meeting of the President, World Bank with the Government in Planning Commission on November 18, 2004 in order to seek support from the World Bank for development in these sectors.

(c) and (d) The President, World Bank, during his official meetings, referred to the World Bank's Country Assistance Strategy where up-scaling of Bank's lending to India to about US\$ 3 billion per annum over the four years (2004-2005 to 2007-2008) is envisaged.

[Translation]

Construction of Houses

563. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:
SHRI SITA RAM SINGH:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) alongwith the beneficiaries including SC/ST/others, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise the target for construction under this scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to merge all rural housing schemes with IAY;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the criteria adopted to select the beneficiaries under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) is implemented as an independent Scheme since 1996-1997. State-wise number of houses constructed till date under the Scheme including SC/ST/others is enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Small schemes of Rural Housing such as the Innovative Stream for Rural Housing & Habitat Development, the Rural Building Centres (RBCs) and the Samagra Awaas Yojana (SAY) have been discontinued and merged with the main scheme i.e. Indira Awaas Yojana with effect from 1.4.2004. The sub-schemes i.e. Upgradation of unserviceable kutcha houses and Credit-cum-Subsidy scheme have also become a part of the Indira Awaas Yojana with effect from 1.4.2004.

(f) The selection of beneficiaries under the Indira Awaas Yojana is made from Below the Poverty Line (BPL) rural families with the approval of the Gram Sabha. A minimum of 50% of the beneficiaries are selected from Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes.

Statement

State-wise number of Houses constructed for SC/ST and Others under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) since 1996-97 till date

(Unit in Nos.)

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Number of Houses Constructed			
		SC	ST	Others	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	307375	120282	290138	717795
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	25602	44	25646

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	77976	137410	142435	357821
4.	Bihar	709312	134908	410096	1254316
5.	Chhattisgarh	14535	39419	24663	78617
6.	Goa	49	26	3121	3196
7.	Gujarat	42427	129997	56457	228881
8.	Haryana	48877	0	26057	74934
9.	Himachal Pradesh	13504	1889	12201	27594
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	54221	54221
11.	Jharkhand	53865	107508	64393	225766
12.	Karnataka	167495	51448	133562	352505
13.	Kerala	98862	11163	79052	189077
14.	Madhya Pradesh	184283	243551	210978	638812
15.	Maharashtra	206795	195901	234693	637389
16.	Manipur	505	7153	1804	9482
17.	Meghalaya	753	20121	370	21244
18.	Mizoram	0	10410	0	10410
19.	Nagaland	0	40772	0	40772
20.	Orissa	477466	241103	419992	1138561
21.	Punjab	33829	0	3697	37526
22.	Rajasthan	133595	78078	99343	311016
23.	Sikkim	1037	3371	5109	9517
24.	Tamil Nadu	362320	11731	93367	467418
25.	Tripura	15407	29530	20011	64948
26.	Uttar Pradesh	874864	3149	451522	1329535
27.	Uttaranchal	34839	3491	28591	66921
28.	West Bengal	291423	72022	212291	575736
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	1593	682	2275
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	8	470	0	478
31.	Daman and Diu	26	158	71	255
32.	Lakshadweep	0	354	0	354
33.	Pondicherry	1268	0	1188	2458
Total		4152695	1722610	3080149	8955454

*[English]***Non-Performing Assets**

564. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of non-performing assets in rupee in the Nationalised Banks/Financial Institutions in the country as on November 30, 2004, bank-wise;

(b) the present position of recovery of outstanding amount of loans of Banks & financial institutions, Bank-wise, financial Institution-wise;

(c) the amount written off against profit amounts during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for recovery of outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The non-performing assets and recoveries (other than write offs) and write offs by public sector banks as on 30th September 2004 (latest available) is at Statement-I. The bank-wise details regarding total amount written off during the last three years is at Statement-II. Information regarding financial institutions is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues on continuous basis. These include evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees, Lok Adalats and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has also been set up to disseminate information on borrowers among the banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. A company viz., "Asset Reconstruction Company (India Ltd.)" has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 for the purpose of addressing Non-performing Assets. "The Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" has been enacted to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues.

RBI had also issued revised guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs of Public Sector Banks on 29th January, 2003. These guidelines were to cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become doubtful or losses on 31st March, 2000 with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crores and below.

Statement I

Data regarding Non-Performing Assets, amount of recovery and amount written-off in respect of Public Sector Banks as on September 2004

(As on Sept. 2004)

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Bank Group	Bank Name	Gross NPAs	Net NPAs	Total Recovery (other than write-offs)	Amount of NPA written off
1	2	3	4	5	6
Nationalised Banks	Allahabad Bank	1295.3	299.7	143.3	17.3
	Andhra Bank	525.5	30.9	69.1	61.0
	Bank of Baroda	3544.0	1559.1	248.5	283.1
	Bank of India	3302.9	1909.8	300.0	68.0

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Bank of Maharashtra	1041.8	330.3	48.3	29.7
	Canara Bank	3470.7	1482.6	324.2	45.3
	Central Bank of India	3000.9	1064.6	260.1	212.0
	Corporation Bank	743.1	277.1	58.5	2.4
	Dena Bank	1379.4	762.3	102.5	133.0
	Indian Bank	1156.6	350.3	108.0	54.7
	Indian Overseas Bank	1429.3	455.3	133.4	161.5
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1222.7	-13.4	139.4	2.0
	Punjab & Sind Bank	1093.7	509.3	87.3	34.7
	Punjab National Bank	4154.8	148.6	413.3	287.5
	Syndicate Bank	1759.5	671.2	123.2	9.4
	UCO Bank	1267.9	680.3	121.5	155.7
	Union Bank of India	2167.7	703.1	182.5	152.9
	United Bank of India	742.2	244.2	67.0	0.0
	Vijay Bank	382.9	76.7	64.6	34.8
	Total	33681.1	11541.9	2994.4	1745.1
SBI Group	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	469.2	150.2	39.9	12.8
	State Bank of Hyderabad	685.4	120.4	46.5	16.3
	State Bank of India	11725.2	4600.5	916.0	368.0
	State Bank of Indore	260.8	17.5	54.3	0.7
	State Bank of Mysore	478.9	117.0	53.0	1.2
	State Bank of Patiala	586.9	111.2	26.6	2.9
	State Bank of Saurashtra	181.0	97.8	21.2	44.3
	State Bank of Travancore	655.8	129.9	68.9	5.8
	Total	15043.1	5344.5	1226.2	452.1
	Total (Public Sector Banks)	48724.3	16886.4	4220.6	2197.2

Date Source: Off-site supervisory returns submitted by the banks pertaining to their domestic operations.

Note: Provisional data.

Statement II

Data regarding total recoveries alongwith recoveries through compromise and write-offs in respect of Public Sector Banks

(Amount in Rs. crore)

Bank Group	Bank Name	FY-02		FY-03		FY-04	
		Total Recoveries during the year	of which recoveries through Compromise and Write-offs	Total Recoveries during the year	of which recoveries through Compromise and Write-offs	Total Recoveries during the year	of which recoveries through Compromise and Write-offs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nationalised Banks	Allahabad Bank	350.1	250.8	571.0	333.5	801.0	621.8
	Andhra Bank	154.5	98.7	180.4	121.1	259.9	184.0
	Bank of Baroda	731.4	141.3	1038.8	440.9	1265.8	836.2
	Bank of India	1067.0	524.0	1144.3	578.9	1274.1	588.1
	Bank of Maharashtra	212.1	83.0	216.3	92.3	223.9	92.0
	Canara Bank	782.3	109.5	865.3	216.3	1237.9	452.0
	Central Bank of India	635.4	257.4	830.8	418.8	945.6	568.9
	Corporation Bank	143.5	90.6	106.5	16.2	162.0	49.3
	Dena Bank	549.4	190.1	673.0	372.1	591.3	319.1
	Indian Bank	561.4	353.3	1038.6	802.8	659.8	416.4
	Indian Overseas Bank	360.4	106.1	525.6	163.6	813.0	469.1
	Oriental Bank of Commerce	235.0	29.0	435.8	45.6	459.6	85.4
	Punjab & Sind Bank	181.1	83.7	160.1	59.4	248.3	85.3
	Punjab National Bank	499.9	34.7	706.2	137.4	1354.4	483.0
	Syndicate Bank	170.7	13.5	265.9	42.3	258.7	33.2
	UCO Bank	373.4	197.4	357.2	154.9	465.0	278.1
	Union Bank of India	339.5	108.7	716.0	74.1	718.4	277.6
	United Bank of India	294.0	175.0	340.3	224.3	351.0	249.6
	Vijay Bank	182.4	68.8	246.3	122.6	389.7	240.4
		Total	7823.4	2915.5	10418.5	4417.1	12479.5
SBI Group	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	218.3	97.0	172.1	37.9	192.4	119.5
	State Bank of Hyderabad	414.9	190.9	425.1	289.3	420.5	285.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	State Bank of India	4559.4	2626.2	6668.4	4071.4	6560.2	3973.6
	State Bank of Indore	165.9	104.3	142.3	110.2	144.4	77.4
	State Bank of Mysore	169.7	66.7	242.3	130.0	226.5	122.4
	State Bank of Patiala	239.2	154.3	260.2	175.8	220.1	125.6
	State Bank of Saurashtra	233.1	154.6	176.3	101.1	230.9	162.0
	State Bank of Travancore	235.3	118.8	225.0	115.5	230.2	112.5
	Total	6235.8	3512.9	8311.7	5031.2	8225.1	4978.8
	Total (Public Sector Banks)	14059.2	6428.4	18730.1	9448.2	20704.6	11308.3

Date Source: Off-site supervisory returns submitted by the banks pertaining to their global operations.

Insurance Scheme for Handloom Workers

565. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to introduce insurance scheme for the handloom weavers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government and the State Governments will contribute to the said scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of benefits the weavers are likely to get from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of India has introduced an Insurance Scheme in December 2003 called the Bunkar Bima Yojana for handloom weavers in pursuance of the announcement made by the then Prime Minister. The scheme is a combination of Janshree Bima Yojana and add-on Group Insurance. The Scheme is implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).

(b) and (c) the annual premium under this scheme is contributed by the weaver, the Central Government and the LIC. There is no State Government's contribution under this scheme.

The funding pattern under the scheme is as under

Item	Premium/Contribution	
1	2	
Janshree Bima Yojana	LIC's contribution	Rs. 100/-
	Weaver's contribution	Rs. 40/-
	Government of India's contribution	Rs. 60/-
	Total premium	Rs. 200/-
Add-on Group Insurance	Weavers' contribution	Rs. 90/-
	Government of India's contribution	Rs. 90/-
	Total premium	Rs. 180/-

1	2	3
Bunkar Bima Yojana	LIC's contribution	Rs. 100/-
(Janshree Bima Yojana + Add-on Group Insurance)	Weaver's contribution	Rs. 130/-
	Government of India's contribution	Rs. 150/-
	Total premium	Rs. 380/-

(d) The details of the benefits under the scheme are as under:

Item	Benefits (Sum assured)	
Janshree Bima Yojana	Natural death	Rs. 20,000/-
	Death due to accident	Rs. 50,000/-
	Permanent total disability due to accident	Rs. 50,000/-
	Loss of 2 eyes or 2 limbs or One eye and 1 limb in accident	Rs. 50,000/-
	Loss of 1 eye or 1 limb in an accident	Rs. 25,000/-
Add-on Group Insurance	For natural as well as accidental death	Rs. 30,000/-
Bunkar Bima Yojana (Janshree Bima Yojana+ Add-on Group Insurance)	Natural death	Rs. 50,000/-
	Accidental death	Rs. 80,000/-

Additional Benefits:

Under the Janshree Bima Yojana scholarship will also be available to the children of parents who will be covered under it. A scholarship of Rs. 300/-per quarter per child will be paid to students studying in standard IX to XII for a maximum period of four years or till they complete XII standard, whichever event occurs earlier. The benefit is restricted to two children of the member covered.

Woolen Potential of Rajasthan

566. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the woollen potentials of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the steps taken to tap the potential and to promote woollen business of that State;

(c) the incentives given by the Centre for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes Sir. Rajasthan produces good quality

carpet grade wool. The State accounts for almost 40% of indigenous raw wool production. The State has pre-loom & post-loom processing facilities apart from the important wool mandies.

(b) to (d) Under the Central Sector Schemes/programmes being administered by the Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur in the 8th and 9th Five Year Plans, the following processing/testing units have been set up in Rajasthan:

(i) One Wool Scouring Plant in Beawar

(ii) One Mini Wool Scouring Plant in Bikaner

(iii) Two Wool Testing Centres one each in Beawar & Bikaner

(iv) One Industrial Service Centre in Bikaner

- (v) One Computer Aided Designing Centre for Carpet in Jaipur.

In addition, 27 projects under Integrated Sheep & Wool Development Programme covering 15 lakh sheep were also sanctioned to the State. Numerous Woolen Expos were organized in different cities of the State.

Grants-in-aid amounting to Rs. 779.52 lakh have been released till date for implementation of the above schemes/programmes in Rajasthan.

Upgradation Scheme for Textile and Jute Industry

567. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned to modernize/upgrade the jute mills in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has increased capital subsidy for the modernization/upgradation of jute mills;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) to what extent the jute mills have improved their productivity?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. To accelerate the pace of modernization/upgradation, Govt. of India, Ministry of Textiles has introduced the following schemes for jute mills:

1. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) for the Textile and Jute Industries for a period of 5 years with effect from 1.4.99. The Scheme has been further extended upto March 2007. Under this scheme the interest distribution is 5%.
2. JMDC Incentive Scheme for Modernisation of Jute Industry—Capital subsidy Scheme came into effect from 8th July 2002 in order to facilitate capital investment for upgradation and/or modernization technology in jute industry by providing 15% incentive on the invested amount. This scheme is applicable only to the existing Cess paying jute mills.

3. Under UNDP-CCF-1 Programme 6 (Six) items of machinery upgraded Technology are being developed.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The Government has increased capital subsidy under JMDC incentive Scheme for modernization/upgradation of jute mills from 15% to 20% only in respect of new jute mills to be set up in jute growing areas having inadequate jute processing facilities.

(e) The disbursement under the JMDC Incentive Scheme for the modernization of Jute Industry started only during 2003-04. It is premature to evaluate the impact of the JMDC Incentive scheme on enhanced productivity and efficiency of the mills which have availed the benefit. The disbursement under the TUFs is not that encouraging as the jute entrepreneurs are reluctant to access loan finance from the Financial Institutions. However, it is expected that the combination of TUFs and JMDC Incentive Scheme will usher faster modernization of the Jute Industry which will lead to improvement in productivity and quality of products.

World Bank Package for Rural Roads

568. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has approved a 400 million package for development of rural roads in India;

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

(c) whether the loan will also support the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana aimed at providing roads in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which World Bank has agreed and the total loan so far provided by the world Bank for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) During 2004-05, the World Bank has approved credit/loan worth US\$ 399.50 million (US \$ 300 million as IDA credit and

US \$ 99.50 million as IBRD loan) for funding the World Bank Phase-I Project of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. Of this amount, US \$ 380.39 million (about Rs. 1900 crore) will be for the construction of rural roads and the balance is for ancillary activities. The World Bank funds are in addition to the regular PMGSY funds.

The fixed component allocated State-wise among the four project States is as follows:

Name of the State	Amount (Rs. in crore)
Himachal Pradesh	176.60
Jharkhand	138.70
Rajasthan	403.60
Uttar Pradesh	542.30
Total	1261.20

The balance of about Rs. 639 crore will be allocated in annual tranches based on actual progress of the programme.

NCRI

569. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI A. SAI PRATAP:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently constituted a National Committee on Rural Infrastructure to ensure time bound development of rural infrastructure;

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

(c) the areas selected by Committee for development, State-wise; and

(d) the funds earmarked and released for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Government has constituted a Committee on Rural Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister. The Committee has another 13 Members and the Member Convener of the Committee is Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission. The Terms of reference are as under:

- (i) Initiating policies to ensure time-bound provision of quality infrastructure in rural areas.
- (ii) Effecting internal prioritization within major sectors of rural infrastructure for maximizing and early consideration.
- (iii) Developing innovative financing arrangements for complementing public investment in these areas and
- (iv) Monitoring progress to ensure that targets set are achieved.

(c) and (d) No meeting of the Committee has been held so far, thus no fund has been earmarked and released to the States.

Improvement of Public Finances by Gujarat Government

570. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government is taking steps to improve its public finances by reduction of average interest rate of debts;

(b) whether the State Government has made any proposals to the Finance Ministry in this regard; and

(c) the decision of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. State Government has undertaken extensive debt swap, including under Debt Swap Scheme of GoI. Government of Gujarat has swapped Central debt of Rs. 9563.51 crores carrying coupon rate of 13% and above outstanding as on 01.04.2002, in full.

(b) The State Government requested that 40% of their small savings collections may continue to be deducted and applied for swapping Central Government loans carrying interest rates lower than 13%. Further the State Government had requested for approval of loans

from merchant bankers @ 7.7% to 7.8% for swapping outstanding HUDCO loan bearing interest rate of 13.5%.

(c) Approval for both the requests has been accorded.

Export of Iron Ore and Chromite by Private Sector

571. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector companies have been allowed to export Iron ore and Chromite from various States;

(b) the credit subsidies and other incentives granted to them by the Central Government and respective State Governments for exporting Iron Ore and Chromite in last three years; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) The private sector companies do not require permission of the government to export iron ore with iron content less than 64%. However, such companies who own mines are allowed to export iron ore fines having iron content 64% and above after meeting requirements of domestic consumers and the MMTC Limited. Private sector companies are not allowed to export chromite other than through MMTC.

(b) and (c) There are no credit subsidies or other incentives granted by the Central or State Governments specific to exports of Iron Ore and Chromite.

World Bank and IMF Assistance

572. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the assistance sought by India from World Bank and IMF for implementing various schemes;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated for getting assistance from World Bank and IMF;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) India seeks

assistance from of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Loans and International Development Association (IDA) Credits for implementing various developmental projects in the country. In the Financial Year 2004-05 (upto November), eight projects with total commitment of US \$ 1700.62 million have been approved by the World Bank. India has not availed of any assistance from IMF since 1993.

(b) and (c) The assistance to India is determined on the basis of Country Assistance Strategy (CAS), which reflects Bank's approach for assistance to India. CAS is finalized after extensive discussion between Line Departments of Government of India, State Governments and the World Bank.

(d) Does not arise.

Free Legal Aid to Poor

573. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Government are providing financial aid to the State Governments for providing free legal aid to poor people;

(b) if so, the funds provided so far to each State during the last three years;

(c) whether all the State Governments have fully utilized the said fund properly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of poor people in each State to whom free legal aid has been provided during the above period; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to provide free legal aid to poor and weaker sections of society in an effective manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) In terms of sub-sections (c) and (j) of Section (4) of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987, the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) allocates funds on financial year basis to the State Legal Services Authorities including Supreme Court Legal Services Committee and Non-Governmental Organisations for implementation of Legal Aid Programmes & Schemes framed by NALSA which

includes free legal aid to the poor. The allotment of funds is done by this Authority on the basis of the specific requests received from State Legal Services Authorities, and their need and programmes.

A statement-I showing funds allocated by the NALSA during the last three financial years viz. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) A Statement-II showing number of persons provided free legal aid during the last three years is enclosed.

(f) NALSA is monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes in the country and is taking appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy and legal awareness amongst the poor and the weaker sections of the society, so as to strengthen the legal aid movement.

Recently, it was resolved in the Annual Meeting of all State Legal Services Authorities to raise the income ceiling in terms of section 12 (h) of the Legal Services Authorities Act 1987 from Rs. 25,000 to 50,000 per annum in respect of cases before the High Courts and courts subordinates thereto. The annual income limit fixed by the Central Government, for cases before the Supreme Court is also Rs. 50,000. Pursuant to the implementation of the decision by some of the State legal Services Authorities, there has been a significant increase in the number of legal aid beneficiaries.

Statement I

Details of the Amount Allocated by National Legal Services Authority during the last three financial years 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2003-04

(Including Supreme Court Legal Services Committee & NGOs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State Legal Services Authority	2001-02 Rs.	2002-03 Rs.	2003-04 Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18,00,000	20,00,000	26,09,633
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
3.	Assam	0	15,00,000	20,94,216
4.	Bihar	15,00,000	10,25,000	4,94,924
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	14,29,987
6.	Goa	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	25,00,000	30,00,000
8.	Haryana	0	7,00,000	5,28,500
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5,00,000	5,00,000	6,00,000
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	10,00,000	5,46,148
12.	Karnataka	5,00,000	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	0	15,00,000	37,00,000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	1,98,000	2,98,000	1,60,000
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	5,00,000	0	0
18.	Mizoram	11,55,000	10,00,000	5,00,000
19.	Nagaland	5,00,000	0	0
20.	Orissa	15,00,000	41,00,000	13,00,000
21.	Punjab	0	5,00,000	15,28,500
22.	Rajasthan	15,00,000	10,00,000	52,00,000
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	10,00,000	5,00,000	4,26,842
25.	Tripura	13,00,000	6,00,000	12,00,000
26.	Uttar Pradesh	50,5000	5,30,000	5,48,000
27.	Uttaranchal	0	10,00,000	0
28.	West Bengal	16,00,000	25,00,000	44,11,855
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
30.	U.T. Chandigarh	0	0	5,28,500
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	0	0	6,60,000
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	0	0	10,00,000
36.	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	30,00,000	35,00,000	40,00,000

Statement II

Number of Persons benefitted through Legal Aid & Advice in Law Courts during the last Three Financial Years viz 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Based on the information provided by the State Legal Services Authorities)

Sl.No.	Name of the State Legal Services Authority	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	905	522	1,236
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	94
3.	Assam	15,118	14862	22,586
4.	Bihar	509	0	730
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	6,364
6.	Goa	116	231	416
7.	Gujarat	0	798	5,021
8.	Haryana	1,645	1598	1,934
9.	Himachal Pradesh	403	363	320
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	1579	1193	777
11.	Jharkhand	0	8685	507
12.	Karnataka	1361	1,493	1,749
13.	Kerala	1017	402	545
14.	Madhya Pradesh	45,300	39,845	17,594
15.	Maharashtra	7,405	6894	5,593
16.	Manipur	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	1	29	6
18.	Mizoram	643	978	680
19.	Nagaland	69	547	237
20.	Orissa	1,692	1521	1,398
21.	Punjab	2102	3,159	3,420
22.	Rajasthan	2,588	5,401	7,947
23.	Sikkim	331	324	179

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Tamil Nadu	14,759	134196	142,697
25.	Tripura	0	42	232
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1,057,372	1037860	791,025
27.	Uttaranchal	0	203	1,287
28.	West Bengal	0	1366	1,202
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0
30.	Chandigarh	299	448	574
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
33.	Delhi	5698	7516	12,721
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
35.	Pondicherry	184	1,103	1,564
36.	Supreme Court Legal Services Committee	601	648	820

Equal Rights to Sons and Daughters

574. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether daughters of Hindu Undivided Families in our country enjoy equal right to property as sons enjoy;

(b) if so, the names of such Indian States that have enacted law in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement the Law Commission's findings that has recommended equal rights to sons and daughters in Hindu Undivided Family;

(d) if so, whether there is a move on the part of Union Government to ratify the United Nations Charter that proclaims all human beings are born free and equal; and

(e) if so, the timeframe by which it could be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The following State enactments

allows daughters of Hindu Undivided family to enjoy equal right to property as sons enjoy:

(i) The Hindu Succession (Andhra Pradesh Amendment) Act, 1986;

(ii) The Hindu Succession (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Act, 1990;

(iii) The Hindu Succession (Karnataka Amendment) Act, 1994; and

(iv) The Hindu Succession (Maharashtra Amendment) Act, 1994.

(c) The 174th Report of the Law Commission of India on "Property Right of Women: Proposed reform under the Hindu Law" has been examined in consultation with the State Governments. As the subject matter is relatable to the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India, it is considered appropriate to allow the State Governments to bring in the necessary changes if the conditions obtaining the States allow such amendment before any Parliamentary legislation could be considered.

(d) and (e) India is an original member of the U.N. since its establishment in 1945.

Plan to Promote Textile Trade

575. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India plans number of measures after the expiry of the agreement on textile and clothing which may help globally in clothing and textile markets;

(b) if so, whether India-Pakistan-Nepal-Bangladesh-Sri Lanka are much more efficient producers than India and China;

(c) if so, to what extent the Indian Government proposes to improve its position; and

(d) if so, the extent to which steps have helped India in comparison to the neighbouring countries to fully compete globally on the textile issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) The global trading environment in the textiles and clothing sector is likely to become more captivity with the expiry of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing from 1 January, 2005. Indian exporters in this sector have also been facing stiff competition from various low-cost supplying countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The government has been taking suitable steps, from time to time, which have enabled the Indian exporters in this sector to meet the emerging challenges of global trade. These include various initiatives aimed at facilitating the modernization of technology in this sector, manpower development and providing suitable infrastructure at important textile centers. Certain fiscal measures and incentive schemes have also been implemented for the benefit of the domestic textile and clothing industry.

Vanilla Export

576. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) month-wise details of the price of Vanilla for cured and green beans in US market from January to September 2004; .

(b) month-wise average price prevailed in India during this period;

(c) whether India exported Vanilla to any country during this year and last year, give details;

(d) whether any action has been taken by the Government of India, spices Board or by Government of Kerala to help farmers to get better price; and

(e) State-wise production of Vanilla during the last three years and the extent of domestic use of Vanilla and its export during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) It is understood that there is no market for green vanilla beans in the USA. Month-wise details of the prices of cured vanilla in USA for the period January-August, 2004 is given below:

Month (2004)	Total rate (US\$ per kg)
January	435.66
February	439.13
March	353.00
April	431.19
May	484.09
June	287.28
July	155.82
August	158.66
September	129.75

Source: Spices Board

(b) Since small quantity of vanilla is regularly exported from India, the FOB prices at which vanilla was exported from India is also a reference price for the farmers for selling their produce. The monthly average FOB price of vanilla during the period January to August, 2004 is given below:

Months	Price Rs./Kg
1	2
January	17769.76
February	18557.13
March	21134.98

1	2
April	19284.66
May	19319.46
June	6224.85
July	7086.40
August	6742.86

(c) India exported vanilla to USA, France, UK, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Japan and Estonia. Data on export of vanilla is given in the table below:

Year	Export	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
2003-04 (E)	26.4	36.06
2004-05 (E) April-October	15.0	22.72

(E) Estimated Source: Spices Board

(d) Steps taken by the Government/Spices Board to help the farmers include the following:

- Government of India is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of States' Effort through Work Plan" including a programme of Integrated Development of Spices which includes vanilla. Under this programme, assistance is provided for production and distribution of quality planting material, large scale multiplication of planting material, field demonstration and training of farmers.
- Spices Board has encouraged vanilla growers to constitute a producer company to pool and process beans for value added direct export.
- Spices Board has helped the company (VANILCO) to get both term loan and working capital. The company has since commenced pooling and processing.
- Spices Board encourages vanilla growers to process their produce by providing technical inputs (through training, promotional literature and CD) and assistance for procuring curing equipments.

- Spices Board schemes are available to such farmers' groups and companies formed by farmers for export marketing vanilla processed by them.

(e) State-wise production of vanilla during last 3 years is given below:

State	Production in tonnes		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Karnataka	36	54	82
Kerala	12	18	34
Tamil Nadu	12	19	18
Total	60	91	134

Source: Spices Board

No authentic estimates of domestic consumption of vanilla is available. Export of vanilla beans from India during the last 3 years is given below:

Year	Export	
	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. Crores)
2002-03	25	22.26
2003-04 (E)	26.4	36.06
2004-05 (April-October) (E)	15	22.72

(E) Estimated. Source: Spices Board.

Evaluation of the Non-Ferrous Metals Production Cost

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

(a) whether the Government have evaluated the cost of production of domestic Non-Ferrous Metals Industry *vis-a-vis* overseas smelters with specific emphasis on infrastructural cost, power cost in industries such as copper, lead and zinc; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government projecting the investment made by these Non-Ferrous Metals industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) The industrial policy of July 1991 has opened all manufacturing activity to competition. Trade policy reforms were brought in to promote efficiency. With liberalization of industry and trade, lifting of quantitative restrictions and progressive scaling down of tariffs, the decisions regarding evaluation of casts to buy indigenously produced *vis-a-vis* imported metals like copper, lead and zinc and to undertake investment in industries are taken by the entrepreneurs on the basis of their own commercial judgement and the international competitiveness of the indigenous output. The domestic investment and output levels are determined, *inter alia*, by the market forces.

The Government has opened the mining sector in 1993 after the amendment of the National Mineral Policy. The sector is opened to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

[Translation]

Rehabilitation Centre Scheme

578. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme for District Rehabilitation Centre;

(b) if so, the names of States where the scheme is likely to be launched;

(c) the funds released by the Central Government for this scheme so far; and

(d) the facilities likely to be provided under the above mentioned scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme.

(c) The funds released by the Government for this scheme during the years are as below:

Year	Plan	Non Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
2004-05 As on Aug. 2004	—	150.00
2003-04	—	420.00
2002-03	—	420.00
2001-02	—	363.00
2000-01	—	420.00
1999-2000	—	290.00
1998-99	—	317.28
1997-98	—	282.53
1996-97	—	241.81

(d) The existing District Rehabilitation Centre are providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the disabled persons and adopting a multi-purpose approach to tackle problem emanating from illiteracy, ignorance and poverty. The services offered by these centers for the persons with disabilities are as below:

- (i) Assessment and fitman of aids and appliances.
- (ii) Vocational guidance programmes, training, skills and placement services.
- (iii) Educational services (in integrated and Sp. Schools).
- (iv) Therapeutical treatment (Physio, Occupational, speech therapy)
- (v) Medical interventional/surgical corrections.
- (vi) Self Employment, disability pension, scholarship, bus passes, pension and other benefit under the States.
- (vii) Conducting assessment clinics at PHCs and their villages.
- (viii) Conducting programme for creating awareness in the community.

[English]

Scheme for Handloom Weavers

579. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the cities in which marketing/purchase centres will be set-up for handloom weavers;

(b) the steps taken to remove the problems being faced in the handloom sector.

(c) whether social securities have been provided to them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Marketing Complexes under the 'Scheme for setting up of Marketing Complexes' are set up in those cities based on the demand from handloom agencies and feasibility of the location. Till date Marketing Complexes have been set up in Jaipur, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Kanpur, Indore and Navi Mumbai. Another Complex at Delhi is being commissioned shortly.

(b) The Government of India is implementing a number of Plan Schemes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers. These include:

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY).
- (ii) Marketing Promotion Programme.
- (iii) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (iv) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (v) Weavers Welfare Scheme:
 - Thrift Fund Scheme
 - New Insurance Scheme
 - Health Package Scheme
- (vi) Handloom Export Scheme.
- (vii) Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP).
- (viii) Design Development & Training Programme.

Recently new schemes for skill upgradation namely-Integrated Handloom Training Project and insurance coverage, namely—Bunkar Bima Yojana and a Non Plan Scheme of one time Rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on sale of handloom cloth have already been introduced.

(c) The Government of India is implementing social security measures through the Weaver Welfare Scheme

which include Health Package, Thrift Fund and New Insurance Scheme. In addition, enhanced insurance coverage has been introduced for weavers under Bunkar Bima Yojana.

(d) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Establishment of Industrial Group for Industrial Development

580. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up industrial groups in various cities in the country for development of industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds likely to be spent on implementation of industrial groups project;

(d) proposals of foreign industries received during last five years and action taken thereupon; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) The Government has no proposal to set up Industrial Groups in various cities in the country for development of industries.

Policies Affecting Insurance Sector

581. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether FICCI has prepared report in course of its survey in which they have expressed apprehension that service tax on insurance premium will affect business; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. FICCI in its report has mentioned that increase

in the service tax is likely to result in increase in insurance premium payable in proportion to the risk premium component.

[English]

Performance of Banks

582. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Public Sector Banks have improved their overall performance during the last fiscal year reporting a substantial growth of more than 50 per cent in their net profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the dividend paid by the Public Sector Banks is inadequate as compared to their net profit and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the quantum of dividend paid by Public Sector Banks during the last fiscal year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Public sector banks have improved their performance for the last few years registering substantial growth in their gross and net profits. The details are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Year	Gross profit	Net profit
2001-2002	21677 (57.03)	8304 (92.29)
2002-2003	29715 (37.08)	12295 (48.05)
2003-2004	39475 (32.83)	16546 (34.57)

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

Notification of Freedom of Information Acts

583. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA':

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

(a) whether the Government has not yet notified the Freedom of Information Act, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Act is likely to be brought into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has informed that the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 was notified in the Gazette of India on 7th January, 2003, and that said Ministry has received a number of representations/suggestions for amending the provisions of the Act and the same are being examined. In view thereof, it is not possible to indicate the time by which the Act is likely to be brought into force.

Opening of Banks in Orissa

584. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations from various sections of society including public representatives to open branches of State Bank of India in various parts of Orissa;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government on such representations so far; and

(d) the time by which the new branches of State Bank of India will be opened during 2004-05 in various parts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a representation has been received for opening a branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) at Rahama, Cuttack, Paradeep Road in the Jagatsinghpur District of Orissa. The representation has been forwarded to the SBI for exploring the possibility of opening a branch there.

(d) As per RBI's extant policy, it is for the Banks themselves to identify locality/center for opening new branches with the approval of their Boards. The RBI has since granted an authorisation for opening of SBI branches at Fortune Tower-Bhubaneswar, Langigarh and Chandikhol, in Orissa. Besides, applications have also

been received by the RBI from SBI for authorising it for opening branches at Aiginia and Nilagiri, in Orissa.

Use of Land Owned by NTC Mills

585. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to commercially exploit land owned by NTC across the country, including Maharashtra and convert the loss making units into export processing zones, theatre complexes, malls, restaurants and residential quarters for its staff,

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof;

(c) whether NTC land can serve as a catalyst for the rejuvenation of the Island city along the lines of Canary Wharf in London or Hudson Yards in New York.

(d) whether it has the potential to change the face of Mumbai's real estate market and bring down the prices of property to be more affordable; and

(e) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The rehabilitation schemes approved by BIFR for the sick companies of NTC, require the surplus land to be disposed of to generate resources for the rehabilitation.

(c) to (e) It is expected that sale and development of the land of these textile mills can provide space required for creating crucial civic and commercial infrastructure in the Island city of Mumbai.

Gold Import

586. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) details of state-wise import of Gold during the year 2004;

(b) the estimated demand and availability of Gold in the country at present;

(c) whether inspite of liberal import rules, the prices of Gold in the country is continuously rising;

(d) the monthly price of 10 gm of gold since January, 2004 onwards;

(e) main reasons for rise in gold prices; and

(f) the effective steps Government have taken to check the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) State-wise data on import of gold is not maintained. However, Port-wise and commodity-wise data is maintained by the Directorate-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics. Import data is available in the Publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol. II (Imports)—Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India does not maintain any data in this regard.

(c) and (d) Monthly average price (for the months January to October 2004) of gold in the international and domestic markets are given in the enclosed Statement. During the period January to October 2004, the average prices of gold per 10 gms have moved from Rs. 6187 to Rs. 6358 in India. The gold price movements in India are generally in synchronization with the international prices.

(e) and (f) Internationally, various factors such as demand and supply, investor interest, interest rates, movement in the exchange rate of US dollar *vis-a-vis* other international currencies, etc. affect the gold prices. The same holds good in India also.

Statement

Monthly average prices of gold

2004	London PM (USD/Ounce)	Mumbai (Rs./10 gms)
1	2	3
January	414.17	6,187.14
February	404.07	6,024.44
March	406.67	5,983.26
April	403.59	5,899.21
May	383.36	5,728.33

1	2	3
June	392.37	5,861.82
July	398.07	6,057.73
August	400.51	6,120.48
September	405.44	6,172.00
October	420.84	6,358.16

Setting up of Handicraft Complexes in Uttaranchal

587. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided any financial assistance for setting up of handicraft complexes in the country including Uttaranchal particularly in Haridwar;

(b) the details thereof during each of the last three years;

(c) the number and locations of the complexes;

(d) whether the government has any proposal to set-up an export zone for handicraft items in Uttaranchal State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) There is no scheme for setting up of handicraft complexes in the country. However, there is a scheme for setting up of Urban Haats at prime locations in the country, which provide direct marketing facilities to the handicraft artisans and handloom weavers round the year. The year-wise and location-wise details of all Urban haats sanctioned so far, including the state of Uttaranchal State is as per statement attached. The Government assistance is limited to 70% of the project cost. There is no proposal to set up an Urban Haat at Haridwar in the State of Uttaranchal.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

(In Rupees)

Sl.No.	Year	State	Location of Urban Haat with Name of Implementing Agency	Total project cost Approved by High Level Screening Committee
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1998-99	UP	Agra UP State Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Lucknow	1,05,00,000
2.	1998-99	Orissa	Bhubaneswar Indl. Infrastructure Dev. Corpn. Bhubaneswar, Orissa	1,86,00,000
3.	1998-99	Gujarat	Ahmedabad Indl. Extn. Cottage (INDEXT-C), Gandhi Nagar	1,70,00,000
4.	1999-2000	Haryana	Uchana (Kamal) Haryana Tourism Corpn., Chandigarh	1,23,00,000
5.	1999-2000	Jammu & Kashmir	Jammu J&K HC Corpn. Srinagar	1,37,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
6.	1999-2000	West Bengal	Kolkatta Indian Craft Village Kolkata	1,75,00,000
7.	1999-2000	Jharkhand	Ranhi Ranchi Indl. Dev. Authority, Ranchi, Jharkhand	1,81,00,000
8.	1999-2000	Andhra Pradesh	Tirupati Andhra Pradesh Travel & Tourism Dev. Corpn., Hyderabad	1,67,00,000
	2000-2001	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	2001-2002	Rajasthan,	Jaipur Udhyam Protsahan Sansthan, Jodhpur	Approved in principle
10.	2001-2002	Rajasthan	Jodhpur Udhyam Protsahan Sansthan, Jodhpur	2,00,00,000
11.	2001-2002	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur Kanpur Dev. Authority, Kanpur	2,00,00,000
12.	2001-2002	Uttaranchal	Dehradun State Indl. Dev. Corpn. of Uttaranchal	1,81,00,000
13.	2001-2002	Madhya Pradesh	Gohar Mahal Madhya Pradesh Hastshilp Hathkargha Vikas Nigam, Bhopal	1,80,00,000
14.	2001-2002	Chhattisgarh	Raipur Chhattisgarh Khadi Gramodyog Board, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	1,60,00,000
15.	2001-2002	Assam	Guwahati Assam Govt. Mktg. Corpn., Guwahati	1,98,00,000
16.	2001-2002	Tripura	Agartala Tripura Handlooms & Handicrafts Dev. Copm Ltd., Tripura, Agartala	1,35,00,000
17.	2002-2003	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar J&K HC Corpn., Srinagar	2,00,00,000
18.	2002-2003	Punjab	Patiala INTACH, New Delhi though Deptt. of Culture, Govt. of Punjab	1,95,70,000
19.	2002-2003	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Avadh Haat Samiti, Lucknow	2,00,00,000
20.	2002-2003	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi UP Tourism, Varanasi, Govt. of UP	1,95,00,000
21.	2002-2003	Jharkhand	Hazaribagh Hazaribagh Kala Evam Sanskriti Vikas Parishad, Hazaribagh, Jharkhand	2,00,00,000

1	2	3	4	5
22.	2002-2003	Kerala	Trivandrum Kerala State Handicrafts Dev. Corpn. Ltd., Kerala	Approved in principle
23.	2002-2003	Gujarat	Surat Indl. Extn. Cottage (INDEXT-C) Gandhi Nagar	2,00,00,000
24.	2002-2003	Gujarat	Bhuj Indl. Extn. Cottage (INDEXT-C) Gandhi Nagar	1,42,00,000
25.	2003-2004	Karnataka	Mysore, JSS Mahavidyapeetha, Ramanuja Road, Mysore	1,96,00,000
26.	2003-2004	Nagaland	Dimapur The Nagaland HL & HC Dev., Corpn., Dimapur	132,43,000 1st Phase 67,57,000 2nd Phase
27.	2003-2004	Orissa	Puri, The Orissa Industrial Infrastructure Dev. Corpn., Bhubaneshwar	2,40,00,000
28.	2003-2004	Orissa	Konark The Orissa Tourism and Dev., Corpn., Bhubaneshwar	2,00,00,000
29.	2003-2004	Maharashtra	Pune The Nalanda Pratishthan, Pune	Approved in Principle
30.	2004-2005	Delhi	Delhi	Approved in principle
31.	2004-2005	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	2,00,00,000

*[Translation]***Export of Handloom Products**

588. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of handloom and textile industry products in the year 2003-2004 has come down;

(b) the target of export for this year;

(c) the reasons for not achieving export targets; and

(d) the quantum of export in this regard and the foreign currency earned through exports during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir. The total exports of textile products, including handlooms, during the year 2003-04 was US\$ 13159.5 million, registering a growth of 6%. Separate export data for handloom products from the year 2003-04 onwards is not available due to absence of separate ITC (HS) Codes for the handloom products. Efforts are on with the Ministry of Finance and the office of the Directorate-General of Foreign Trade for allotment of separate ITC (HS) Codes for the handloom products.

(b) A target US\$ 13500 million was fixed for the year 2003-04 for textile products, including handlooms.

(c) The reasons for not achieving the targets for the year 2003-04 are mainly increased competition from countries like China, Bangladesh etc.

(d) Quantity-wise export data is not centrally maintained. However, as per export data made available by the Directorate-General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), the textile exports in value terms, during the last three years i.e. from 2001-02 to 2003-04, have been as under:

Year	Textile exports, including handlooms, in Million US\$
2001-02	10764.7
2002-03	12412.7
2003-04	13159.5

[English]

Amendment in Patent Bill

589. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

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

(a) whether Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance has sought certain amendments to Patent (Amendment) Bill to safeguard already patented compounds from patentability in new forms;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to amend Patent Bill in accordance to the WTO agreements;

(d) if so, details thereof;

(e) the time by which the said proposals will be implemented;

(f) whether the Government has taken measures to address the concern of Indian companies before amending the patent law; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and measures taken to ensure that foreign companies cannot claim patents of products already in Indian market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (g) Under the TRIPS agreement of WTO Agreement, India has an obligation to amend the

Patents Act, 1970 to provide for product patent protection in all fields of technology with effect from January 01, 2005. In order to identify the elements of the proposed amendments, Government undertook extensive and broad based country-wide consultations involving different stakeholders, including all sections of the pharmaceutical industry. The Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance in its submission has suggested, *inter alia*, for retention of pre-grant opposition, no patents to polymorphs, hydrates, isomers, metabolites etc. All views and concerns will be taken into consideration suitably before finalising the said amendment.

BACON-2004

590. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recently there was a Bankers' meeting (Bacon 2004) held by Indian Bankers Association;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the issues discussed during the Summit and the results thereof; and

(d) the extent to which active participation of Banks can help improving the growth of country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Bankers' Conference (BANCON) was hosted by Punjab National Bank with organizational support from Indian Banks' Association (IBA) on 10th and 11th November, 2004 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. The theme of the conference was "Indian Banking: Realizing Global Aspirations". More than 1200 delegates participated in the Conference. There were five technical sessions with speakers and panelists drawn from bankers, regulators, consultants, academicians and corporate leaders from India and abroad.

(c) Important issues concerning the banking & financial sectors were discussed in the five technical sessions comprising (i) Creating Global Winners from India, (ii) Corporate Governance: Towards Best Practices, (iii) Role of Banks in Entrepreneurial Development & Micro Finance, (iv) Technology in Banks: The Road Ahead and (v) Basel II-Emerging Market Perspectives. These technical sessions were thought provoking and generated active participation from delegates. It is expected that the issues that have emerged from these interactive sessions would

help the regulators to develop suitable policy measures for the banking and financial sector.

(d) Bankers have to play a critical role in the development of the country by providing support for employment generation, research and development, educational loans for the development of human capital and also for providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA). Bankers have to come out of the traditional roles and develop innovative ways and means for the development of agriculture, SSI and infrastructure sector.

Term of Chairman/Vice-Chairman of EPC

591. SHRI ADHIR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the term of a Chairman or Vice-Chairman of Export Promotion Council is concurrent to their terms as elected members of committee of administration;

(b) if not, the justification of allowing Chairman and Vice-Chairman to remain in office without elections;

(c) details of activities planned/implemented by Export Promotion Council during last one year and the measures taken to ensure that the planned activities are executed on priority basis;

(d) details regarding requisite quorum fixed for AGM of Export Promotion Council and the instances when AGM was held without requisite quorum; and

(e) measures taken to ensure quorum of AGM and action taken against the defaulting Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of activities planned/implemented by the Export Promotion Councils, during 2003-2004, is given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Article 17.2 of the Model Articles/Bye-laws, circulated to the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) for adoption, provide for requisite quorum for Annual General meetings (AGMs) of the EPCs. Each EPC is required to follow the provisions of the Articles/Bye-laws adopted by it in all matters, including holding of AGM. No such instance, where AGM has been held without requisite quorum, has been reported to the Government.

(e) The concerned Administrative Divisions in the various Departments ensure that AGMs of the Councils, under their charge, are held in accordance with the provisions of the Articles/Bye-laws.

Statement

Export Promotion Activities of EPCs Planned/Implemented under MDA during 2003-04.

Sl.No.	Name of Council	No. of activities
1	2	3
1.	Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	22
2.	Cashew Export Promotion Council, Cochin	9
3.	Carpet Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	3
4.	CAPEXIL, Kolkata	17
5.	Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	—
6.	Council for Leather Exports, Chennai	21
7.	Engineering Export Promotion Council, Kolkata	36

1	2	3
8.	EPC for Handicrafts, New Delhi	20
9.	Electronics & Computer Software EPC, New Delhi	12
10.	Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	15
11.	Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai	6
12.	Indian Silk Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	4
13.	Project Exports Promotion Council (erstwhile OCCI) New Delhi	9
14.	Plastics Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	29
15.	Powerloom Development & EPC, Mumbai	2
16.	Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	9
17.	Synthetic & Rayon Textiles Export Promotion Council, Mumbai	18
18.	Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council, New Delhi	9
19.	CHEMEXCIL, Mumbai	45
20.	Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata	8
21.	EPC for EOUs & SEZ Units, New Delhi	8
22.	Wooltexpro, Mumbai.	1

Failure of Modhavpura Mercantile Bank

592. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any investigation to find out the causes for the failure of Modhavpura Mercantile Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the persons found involved for failure of bank;

(d) the action taken by the Government against each of such persons and public money recovered from them; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such incidents in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)

during 1999-2000, Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. (MMCB) had resorted to indiscriminate lending, particularly to stock broking firms in gross violation of lending norms. In March, 2001, there was a sudden "run" on the bank, "run" on the bank, following rumors of its large exposure to a leading stock broker at Mumbai, who suffered huge losses in his share dealings. There was large scale withdrawal of deposits in March, 2001, resulting in server liquidity problem for the Bank. With a view to protect the interest of the depositors, RBI issued directions to the Bank under Banking Regulation Act 1949 restricting certain operations and requisitioned the Central Registrar of Co-operative Societies (CRCS) to supersede the Board of Directors and appoint an Administrator. CRCS had superseded the Board and appointed an Administrator on 14th March, 2001 to oversee the affairs of the Bank. A Joint Parliamentary committee was also constituted to enquire into the stock scam, through a Motion in Lok Sabha on 26th April, 2001. The Committee has since submitted its report and Government of India has placed before the Parliament, the action taken report on the observations/findings of the Committee.

(c) and (d) The Board of Management of the Bank was found primarily responsible for the failure of MMCB. RBI has filed criminal complaints against Shri Ramesh Bhai Nandlal Parekh, Chairman and Shri Devendra Prasad Pandya, Chief Executive and Managing Director, in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate under Banking Regulation Act 1949 and Reserve Bank of India Act 1934 for having made false statements to RBI with respect to their call money borrowing and also failing to meet its assurance for submitting the required information. MMCB has also filed suits in 437 accounts involving an amount of Rs. 220.51 crores and issued legal notices in 930 accounts involving Rs. 1456.64 crores.

(e) Since April, 2001, RBI has taken a series of measures to correct the systematic deficiencies and to strengthen the system of supervision of Urban Co-operative Banks, which include, *inter-alia*, guidelines on capital adequacy norms, investment in Government and other approved securities, Bank finance against shares and debentures, operation in call/notice money market, introduction of 90 days norms for NPA classification, etc.

Smuggling of Gold

593. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Desh mein khub chamak raha hai sone ki taskari ka dhanda' appearing in *Navbharat Times* dated the October 13, 2004;

(b) if so, the details of the salient points brought out therein;

(c) whether the smuggling of gold is increasing in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to curb the smuggling of gold?

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

(b) The following salient points have been brought out in the article:

(i) According to Bankers and Gold Analysts, gold worth Rs. 8,000 crores is smuggled into India every year.

(ii) According to other estimates, about 3000 tonnes of gold is smuggled into India every year.

(iii) According to Analysts, there is a danger that such illegal exchange of money in terms of gold may be used for anti-national activities.

(iv) Gold and precious stones are used for hoarding of black money.

(v) According to senior bankers, India has a restrictive policy on gold and because of that domestic prices of gold are more than international prices. As a result of this, smuggling/hoarding of gold countries.

(c) No, Sir. This would be evident from the value of gold seized during the last 3 years which is as under:

Year	Value of seized gold (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	25.04
2002-03	14.53
2003-04	2.48

(d) All Customs filed formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of all contraband items including gold.

LIC Public Offer

594. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation has lost 6% market share in the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) whether LIC has sought permission for Rs. 2,000 crore public offering;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to improve its performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that they have registered a growth of 62.71% in First, Premium Income in the first half of the current year over

corresponding period last year. However, their market share has come down by 6% as compared to last year during this period partly because of tough competition in the market and partly due to continued focus on old products like Endowment, Whole Life and Term Assurance Plans.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) To improve its performance, LIC have launched three new products in November, 2004. They are now shifting the product focus to marketing of Unit Linked Scheme and Individual Pension Plans, which are popular in the market. Other steps include increasing group business by tie ups with banks, designing new products for fund management, new growth oriented scheme of incentive bonus for Development Officers etc.

Production and Import of Raw Silk

595. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is reduction in domestic production of raw silk and increase in import of raw silk;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase domestic production with a remunerative price?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is reduction in domestic production of raw silk and increase in import of raw silk. the production of raw silk and import of raw silk during the last three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given below:

Year	Production of Raw Silk (M.T.)					Import of Raw Silk (M.T.)
	Mulberry	Tasar	Eri	Muga	Total	
2001-02	15842	249	1160	100	17351	6808
2002-03	14617	284	1316	102	16319	9054
2003-04	13970	315	1352	105	15742	9258

The main reason for decline in raw silk production was due to continuous drought conditions prevailing in the traditional states viz., Karnataka and Tamil Nadu during 2002-03 and 2003-04 resulting in decline in mulberry raw silk production. However, there was no decline in non-mulberry silk production during 2002-03 and 2003-04. Also surge in imports of raw silk mainly from China since 2001 coupled with steep fall in prices disrupted the Indian silk market and adversely affected cropping pattern of a large number of cocoon growers of most of the States specially Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

(c) Several programmes and schemes to increase domestic production with a remunerative price have been instituted. The major ones are:

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk Board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;

- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;
- Central assistance is being extended to states through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen cocoon & silk testing systems;
- Low cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularized through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc.;
- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation

Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available *inter alia* to silk sector.

- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes.

[Translation]

Lease out of Work of NTC to Private Companies

596. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to allocate some portions of the National Textile Corporation (NTC) mills on lease to the private companies;

(b) if so, whether the Government has permitted the private companies for the same;

(c) if so, the names of those companies, the total share for which these companies are allowed to work for the NTC;

(d) whether the Government would reduce the staff strength of the NTC; and

(e) the reasons for which such steps are being taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No Sir. Currently there is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government has already introduced a modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme for National Textile Corporation to reduce the staff strength in accordance with the rehabilitation scheme sanctioned by BIFR. So far 43,894 employees have opted for VRS as on 1.11.2004.

[English]

Tax GDP Ratio

597. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tax GDP ratio is very low in the country in comparison to other neighbouring and developed countries;

(b) the Tax-GDP ratio during the last three years, year-wise and how does it compare with the neighbouring countries and major developed countries; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to raise the Tax-GDP ratio in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The tax revenue-GDP ratios of Central Governments of select neighbouring and developed countries, including India is given in the World Bank document "World Development Indicators" are as under:

Tax revenue as per cent of GDP

Country	2000	2001	2002
Australia	21.9	22.0	—
Bangladesh	7.0	7.0	—
China	6.8	6.8	—
India	9.6	10.0	9.9
Indonesia	16.5	13.2	13.6
Pakistan	12.1	12.4	12.9
Sri Lanka	14.5	14.6	14.5
Thailand	14.1	14.5	14.4
United Kingdom	34.6	34.3	—
United States	20.1	19.4	17.7

Source: World Bank—World Development Indicators 2002, 2003 and 2004.

(c) the Government has taken a number of steps to broaden the tax base and improve compliance through rationalisation and simplification of procedures. The National Common Minimum Programme commits the Central Government to increase the tax-GDP ratio by undertaking major tax reforms that further expand the base of tax payers, increase tax compliance and make tax administration more efficient. Tax measures proposed in the Union Budget for 2004-05 presented to Parliament on July 8, 2004 include, *inter alia*, taxation of gifts from unrelated persons, above the threshold limit of Rs. 25,000, extension of service tax to more services and increase in the rate of service tax from 8 per cent to 10 per cent and levy of education cess. The Budget Estimates for 2004-05 indicate an improvement in tax-GDP ratio from 9.2 per cent in 2003-04 (RE) to 10.2 per cent.

Appointment of Export Commissioner in DGFT

598. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new Export Commissioner has been appointed in DGFT; and

(b) if so, whether vigilance clearance was obtained prior to appointment to this position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This has been done as per the Government policy.

Denial of Senior Citizens' Scheme Benefits

599. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that retired employees of Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala State Governments are being denied the benefit of Senior Citizens' Saving Scheme because they have neither completed 60 years nor have taken VRS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove this anomaly in implementation of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Retired persons who have attained the age of 55 years or more but less than 60 years, are eligible to invest an amount upto the maximum of their retirement benefits or rupees fifteen lakh, whichever is less, under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme of the Central Government.

[Translation]

Income-Tax Paid by Private TV Channels

600. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise details of income-tax paid by various Private TV Channels during the last three years;

(b) the details of income tax outstanding as on date by various Private TV Channels;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to recover the income-tax;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Amendment to Securitisation and Reconstruction Act

601. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 which has already got diluted after a court verdict, to further strengthen laws for early recovery of non-performing assets worth over Rs. 60,000 crores;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed amendment; and

(c) the details of the other measures to stop parking of excess funds of Banks in Government and RIDF bonds etc. and to step up investment of these funds in infrastructure and priority sectors particularly small and medium enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debt Laws (Amendment) Ordinance 2004 has been issued on 11.11.2004 to amend the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest act, 2002.

(b) The amendments carried out in the Act are as under:

- (i) The secured creditor will be able to take possession of the secured asset only after reasons for not accepting objections of the borrower have been communicated to him in writing.
- (ii) After possession of the secured assets has been taken, the borrower can file an application before the DRT without any deposit.
- (iii) After the disposal of the case by the DRT, the borrower, if aggrieved, can apply to the DRAT with a deposit of 50% of the decreed amount which can be reduced by the DRAT to 25%.
- (iv) Provide for taking over of management of the business of the borrower under section 13 (4).
- (v) Confer power upon the Appellate Tribunal to transfer all pending applications before different DRTs to one DRT.
- (vi) Empower RBI to call for periodic returns and information from Securitisation Companies and Asset Reconstruction Companies.

(c) IDBI, IDFC, ICICI Bank, SBI, LIC, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank have formed an Inter-Institutional Group (IIG). They will pool their resources on a callable basis and a sum of Rs. 40,000 crore will be made available as and when necessary. The IIG will ensure speedy conclusion of loan agreements and implementation of infrastructure projects. SIDBI has been advised to structure Small and Medium Enterprises Fund

with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore. Loans are being extended to SMEs through SIDBI's own offices and by way of providing refinance to the primary lending institutions. Refinance to SFCs is available in the interest rate band of 7.5% to 8%. The SME Fund provides for routing of assistance, besides SFCs, through commercial banks as well. For the smooth operations of the Fund, the Government of India have approved the limit of investment in plant and machinery above Rs. 1 crore and upto Rs. 10 crore for a unit to qualify as the medium enterprise.

[Translation]

Grants to States for Modernisation of Judicial System

602. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the condition laid down by the Union Government, the State Governments are required to contribute equal share in the Centrally Sponsored Schemes meant to streamline and equip the judicial procedure with modern techniques;

(b) if so, whether majority of the States have not been able to contribute their share due to their poor economic condition as a result of which their schemes could not be implemented;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to modernise the judicial procedure while granting hundred per cent grants to these States; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Since its commencement in 1993-94, the States have contributed Rs. 552.37 crores till 30.9.2004 under this programme. Presently, the States have been requested to prepare a Ten-Year Perspective Plan, which will account for both new constructions as well as renovation of old buildings, and on the basis of which both outlay and modalities of the scheme will be reworked in consultation with the Planning Commission.

FDI for setting up Industries

603. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SITARAM SINGH:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of FDI cases approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board, Sector-wise during each of the last three years;

(b) the total amount involved therein, year-wise;

(c) the number of cases pending with FIPB for approval as on date;

(d) the main reasons for delay in clearing these cases; and

(e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to increase the inflow of FDI in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Statement showing cases approved by Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), sector-wise during last three calendar years and the total amount involved therein, year-wise is enclosed.

(c) Generally, FIPB approvals are given within 6 weeks from the date of registration of applications. No valid application is pending with FIPB beyond the said period of 6 weeks.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for FDI in the region by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy, procedures and institutions. The FDI policy is review continuously to make it more investor friendly. In order to catalyse FDI, the Government has also permitted access through the automatic route for FDI upto 100% in most activities.

Statement*Year-wise FDI proposals approved by FIPB with Sector-wise break-up*

Sl.No.	Sector	No. of FDI cases approved by FIPB calendar year-wise			Total amount involved therein calendar year-wise (Rs. in crores)		
		2002	2003	2004 (upto September)	2002	2003	2004 (upto September)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Metallurgical Industries	13	12	11	87.06	28.25	110.78
2.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	23	26	16	216.54	171.82	156.13
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	3	—	—	0	0	0
4.	Electrical Equipment (INCL S/W & ELEC)	210	200	168	874.80	515.13	214.36
5.	Telecommunications	43	44	33	230.94	352.69	144.88
6.	Transportation Industry	72	59	25	1423.56	801.34	334.44
7.	Industrial Machinery	36	12	17	195.06	1.17	41.07
8.	Machine Tools	4	8	2	1.96	6.00	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Agricultural Machinery	2	0	0	4.30	0	0
10.	Earth-Moving Machinery	0	1	3	0	0.25	2.06
11.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engg.	35	30	18	176.58	12.56	30.69
12.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipments	3	11	3	0.14	3.32	1.31
13.	Medical and Surgical appliances	5	7	3	8.03	12.95	0.75
14.	Industrial Instruments	6	11	3	9.17	18.42	8.11
15.	Fertilizers	1	0	2	0.16	0	4.28
16.	Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)	52	32	19	269.77	69.81	948.73
17.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	2	0	0	1.09	0	0
18.	Dye-Stuffs	2	1	0	8.88	0.03	0
19.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	27	26	18	81.02	89.48	335.42
20.	Textiles (including Dyed, Printed)	15	17	6	54.12	17.46	15.83
21.	Paper and Pulp including paper product	3	6	1	241.21	20.35	2.50
22.	Sugar	2	0	1	1.65	0	5.00
23.	Fermentation Industries	1	2	2	790.00	0	7.79
24.	Food Processing Industries	15	13	12	179.06	33.88	60.07
25.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	4	6	4	21.59	7.11	13.51
26.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	1	1	1	16.13	2.16	0.50
27.	Rubber Goods	10	5	3	58.25	0.90	1.75
28.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	5	6	1	1.41	8.48	0.05
29.	Glass	7	6	6	230.49	3.93	234.39
30.	Ceramics	4	5	3	0.86	24.22	0.84
31.	Cement & Gypsum Products	5	0	2	9.93	0	30.98
32.	Timber Products	1	1	1	0.06	1.82	0.92
33.	Consultancy Services	49	28	25	91.21	13.42	40.65
34.	Service Sector	58	41	47	1192.61	480.40	1461.15
35.	Hotel & Tourism	30	12	7	38.30	22.57	75.92
36.	Trading	45	70	58	132.08	829.49	230.89
37.	Miscellaneous Industries	46	45	43	619.25	240.59	1196.81
Total		840	744	582	7267.27	3790.00	5712.57

*[English]***Incentives to Handloom Sector**

604. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give incentives to the handloom sector during the current year for the development of the handloom industry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing a number of Plan Schemes for the development of handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers. These include:

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY).
- (ii) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (iii) Weavers Welfare Scheme:
 - Thrift Fund Scheme
 - New Insurance Scheme
 - Health Package Scheme
- (iv) Handloom Export Scheme.
- (v) Marketing Promotion Programme Scheme.
- (vi) Design Development & Training Programme.
- (vii) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (viii) Integrated Handloom Training Project (IHTP).
- (ix) Bunkar Bima Yojana.

A provision of Rs. 154.56 crore has been made in BE 2004-05 for the above schemes. Under the above Schemes a sum of Rs. 79.84 crore has been released during the current financial year upto 31.10.2004.

Trade with CIS

605. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote country's trade with Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS);

(b) whether any trade plan has been formulated by his Ministry with the CIS for 2004-05 or for coming years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) With a view to enhance India's trade with countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a programme "Focus: CIS" was launched on 31st March 2002 at the time of announcement of EXIM Policy for the year 2003-2004. In the first phase, emphasis of the Programme was on seven countries, viz. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan & Ukraine. The scope of the Programme has been extended w.e.f. April 2004, to cover all the 12 CIS countries i.e. Russian Federation, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus & Moldova alongwith Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan & Ukraine.

The programme aims to increase interaction between the business entities of the two regions by identifying areas of bilateral trade and investment. The exports to the Region are envisaged to be enhanced through combined efforts of Government of India, India Trade Promotion Organisation, Export Promotion Councils, Apex Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Indian Missions and Institutions such as EXIM Bank, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) etc.

Details of the programme are available on Department's website, under the head 'Trade Promotion Programme'.

Anticipated Rise in Tobacco Exports

606. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decline in tobacco production by Zimbabwe and China and phasing out of the subsidy given to tobacco farmers by European Union by 2007-08 has resulted in an increase in demand for Indian tobacco in the current and the future also;

(b) if so, whether Indian Government is considering to take advantage of these events and has decided to give incentive to the Indian Tobacco growers to meet the

demand of Tobacco in European and other countries; and

(c) if so, the total demand of Tobacco during 2004-05 and the extent to which it was met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

World Bank Lending

607. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the initiatives taken by the Government has prompted the World Bank to increase its lending to India as reported in *Pioneer* dated the October, 19, 2004;

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

(c) the manner and the sector where the funds are likely to be utilized by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The world Bank has proposed International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) lending upto US\$ 2.15 billion per annum to India as compared to IBRD average lending of around US\$ 1 billion during the last five years. The Bank management has also proposed International Development Association (IDA) lending of around US\$ 3.7 billion to India during three year period starting July 2005.

(c) The Bank lending would be utilized for various development projects in the country in sectors such as infrastructure, human development, rural livelihoods, urban development and agriculture, among others.

Urban Cooperative Bank

608. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked to the Urban Cooperative Banks all over the country to submit the list of black listed contractors who have committed fraud on housing finance;

(b) whether any of the Urban Cooperative Banks has submitted such list to RBI;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. However, RBI issued a circular on September 1, 2004 cautioning all UCBs about the growing incidence of frauds in housing finance and also indicated remedial measures to be taken by them.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the (a) above.

Loan to Poor Countries

609. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has been extending line of credit to various poor and under developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the countries to whom line of credit has been extended;

(c) the total amount of principal and interest lying as outstanding dues to these countries; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to recover this amount from them?

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

(b) and (c) Government of India (GOI) has signed credit agreements for a total amount of Rs. 6555 million + US\$ 382.56 million for extension of lines of credit, with several countries viz. Bangladesh, Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Against these, amounts of Rs. 3,694,433,465.21 + US\$ 172,103,110.92 and Rs. 471,580,742.69 + US\$ 13,760,705.25 are lying outstanding against principal and interest respectively.

(d) As per the credit agreements repayment of dues is the obligation of the recipient countries. In cases where there are problems in repayment by any recipient country, the matter is pursued through Ministry of External Affairs.

World Bank Aid

610. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had slashed aid to India during the fiscal year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the extent to which slashing of aid would affect development assistance; and

(c) the details of the schemes which could not be initiated due to slashing of World Bank aid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Establishment of New Units of Khadi and Village Industries

611. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to set up new units to develop Khadi and Village Industries;

(b) if so, the State-wise locations in the country where the said units would be set up;

(c) if so, whether the Khadi Gramodyog Board proposes to provide a loan for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms and conditions of the loan?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) To promote agro and rural industries in the country including Khadi and Village Industries, the Government is already implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Under this programme, an entrepreneur can establish a village industry, including village industry based on agricultural produce, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector schedule commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. Projects costing upto Rs. 10 lakh are entitled to margin money support of up to 25 per cent of the

project cost. For projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money support is 25 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project for the general category of entrepreneurs. In the case of entrepreneurs from the weaker sections, viz., the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Women, Physically Handicapped, Ex-servicemen, Minority Community, etc., the margin money given is at the rate of 30 per cent of the project cost up to Rs. 10 lakh while for projects costing above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of margin money assistance is 30 per cent of Rs. 10 lakh plus 10 per cent of the balance cost of the project.

(b) State-wise location specific targets for setting up units are not fixed under REGP. Instead State-wise targets for employment generation are fixed. It is proposed to generate 25 lakh jobs under the REGP during the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). During the first two years of the Tenth Plan, i.e. 2002-03 and 2003-04, 8.3 lakh jobs have already been created under this programme. For the current financial year i.e. 2004-05, a target of 5.25 lakh jobs has fixed under this programme. The State-wise details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) The Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) does not provide any loan under REGP scheme. Under the REGP scheme, the loans to the entrepreneur are provided by banks and subsidy by KVIC as per details indicated above. However, part of the margin money support from KVIC is routed through KVIBs.

Statement

Khadi & V.I. Commission

Rural Employment Generation Programme

Statewise Employment (Nos) Targets—2004-05

Sl.No.	State/UT	Employment (Nos.)
1	2	3
North Zone		
1.	UT Chandigarh	75
2.	Delhi	500
3.	Haryana	19625
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12500
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	10000

1	2	3
6.	Punjab	24550
7.	Rajasthan	37900
Sub Total		105150
East Zone		
8.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2500
9.	Bihar	20975
10.	Jharkhand	15900
11.	Orissa	14550
12.	West Bengal	37300
Sub Total		91225
N.E. Zone		
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	1700
14.	Assam	25100
15.	Manipur	5000
16.	Meghalaya	5000
17.	Mizoram	7475
18.	Nagaland	2850
19.	Tripura	3600
20.	Sikkim	1775
Sub Total		52500
South Zone		
21.	Andhra Pradesh	43575
22.	Karnataka	33075
23.	Kerala	20925
24.	Lakshadweep	25
25.	Pondicherry	100
26.	Tamilnadu	19925
Sub Total		117625

1	2	3
West Zone		
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli/Daman & Diu	250
28.	Goa	5000
29.	Gujarat	10075
30.	Maharashtra	31125
Sub Total		46450
Central Zone		
31.	Chhattisgarh	15025
32.	Madhya Pradesh	21225
33.	Uttaranchal	10000
34.	Uttar Pradesh	65725
Sub Total		111975
Grand Total		524925

[English]

Request for Additional Funds under SGSY

612. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received request for additional funds under SGSY and SGRY from different States;

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

(c) whether new guidelines for SGRY have been issued; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY) are allocation based schemes. State-wise and district-wise allocations under these schemes are done on the basis of pre-determined criteria and in the beginning of the financial year. Funds under these schemes are generally released in two instalments. Additional funds and foodgrains are provided to districts only from savings at the end of the financial year and that too on the basis of performance. Requests for release of additional funds under SGSY and SGRY from different districts are entertained only after the concerned Implementing Agencies have drawn both the instalments and have utilized maximum portion of the available funds, subject to availability of funds.

(c) and (d) The Guidelines of SGRY have been revised from 1.4.2004. The main changes are as follows:

- (i) Streams-I&II have been merged and SGRY now is a unified scheme. But distribution of resources among the District Panchayat, Intermediate Panchayats and Village Panchayats in a district will be in the ratio of 20:30:50 as before;
- (ii) In the event of non or less availability of funds or foodgrains, Implementing Agencies can use more of what is available with them for wage payment.
- (iii) District Panchayats can utilize upto Rs. 1 lakh for training/capacity building of officials/non-officials of the PRIs involved in the implementation of SGRY;
- (iv) Constitution of Monitoring Committee of villagers for each work is mandatory.

[Translation]

ADB Loan for City Upgradation

613: SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any technical grants-in-aid is being received for city upgradation in North-Eastern States from Asian Development Bank (ADB);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the beneficiary cities in respect of above scheme; and

(d) the details of the amount received as grants-in-aid by each city?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a Technical Assistance for, an amount of USD 1 million, for North Eastern Region Urban Development in June, 2004. The TA will examine potential investments in water supply, urban roads and transport, sewerage and sanitation, storm water drainage, solid waste management of such services at the urban local bodies level in the North Eastern Region. The TA is to be financed by the Government of United Kingdom entirely on a grant basis. The TA would help in identifying the projects, which will be in three phases, to be financed by the ADB. The first phase of the project is likely to cover the cities of Aizawal, Gangtok, Agartala, Kohima, and Shilling.

Optimum Utilisation of the Capacity for Cement Production

614. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Year-wise and State-wise comparative details of cement production during the last three years;

(b) the details of installed capacity of cement production, state-wise;

(c) whether installed capacity is being fully exploited;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the cement produced in these States is being fully utilised;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for ensuring full utilisation of produced cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The State-wise installed capacity and State-wise production of cement during the last three years is given in the Statement annexed. After meeting the domestic demand, the industry has also exported 3.38 million tonnes of cement in 2001-02, 3.47 million tonnes in 2002-03 and 3.36 million tonnes in 2003-04.

(c) to (g) The capacity utilisation has been in the range of 79% to 81% in the last three years. For better utilization of installed capacity, some of the measures taken by the Government to increase demand for cement are as under:

(i) To give boost to the housing development programme, various fiscal incentives have been provided in the Finance Act, 2001 and Finance Act, 2002 and the benefits enjoyed by the Housing Industry under Section 80(I) (B) under the heading "Direct Taxes" have been extended upto 31st March, 2007;

(ii) Allocation of funds for Indira Awas Yojana in the rural areas has been raised from Rs. 1710 crores to Rs. 2247 crores in the Budget 2004-05;

(iii) Under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme, finance is proposed to be provided to 250000 rural housing units against the present target of 180000 units per years; and

(iv) Public investment in big infrastructure projects like roads, railways, airports and sea ports is being enhanced.

Statement

(In lakh tonnes)

Sl.No.	Region/State	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		Capacity	Prodn.	Capacity	Prodn.	Capacity	Prodn.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
1.	Haryana	1.72	—	1.72	—	1.72	—
2.	Punjab	21.73	19.03	28.40	29.47	30.40	33.31
3.	Rajasthan	162.99	160.05	174.54	172.81	179.94	177.81
4.	Himachal Pradesh	40.60	38.98	40.60	37.96	40.60	39.93
5.	Delhi	5.00	0	5.00	0	5.00	0
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.00	1.36	2.00	1.14	2.00	1.19
Northern Region—Total		234.04	219.42	252.26	241.38	259.66	252.24
Eastern Region							
7.	Assam	2.00	1.33	2.00	1.42	2.00	1.19
8.	Meghalaya	2.00	1.06	2.00	1.04	2.00	0.99
9.	Bihar	10.00	6.25	10.00	5.62	10.00	3.39
10.	Jharkhand	34.75	30.09	35.67	36.37	45.75	35.88
11.	Orissa	27.61	24.33	28.52	26.12	30.35	24.83
12.	West Bengal	22.92	17.4	31.25	25.2	31.25	27.44
13.	Chhattisgarh	106.47	86.26	103.18	71.27	102.49	72.98
Eastern Region—Total		205.75	166.72	212.62	167.04	223.84	166.70

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Southern Region							
14.	Andhra Pradesh	203.31	134.12	206.06	132.48	210.98	140.37
15.	Tamil Nadu	129.13	93.08	144.81	116.86	145.64	122.91
16.	Karnataka	97.44	67.64	97.86	80.92	100.86	92.77
17.	Kerala	4.20	3.94	4.20	4.10	5.20	5.28
Southern Region-Total		434.08	298.78	452.93	334.16	462.68	361.33
Western Region							
18.	Gujarat	129.37	105.45	135.20	100.84	166.70	103.70
19.	Maharashtra	89.50	66.84	106.17	91.88	113.08	106.31
Western Region-Total		218.87	172.29	241.37	192.72	279.78	210.01
Central Region							
20.	Uttar Pradesh	42.97	18.27	48.64	24.27	55.17	34.58
21.	Madhya Pradesh	161.85	148.53	161.85	153.92	161.85	150.18
Central Region-Total		204.82	166.80	210.49	178.19	217.02	184.76
Grand Total		1297.56	1024.01	1369.67	1113.49	1442.98	1175.04

[English]

Funds under Annapurna Scheme

615. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR:
DR. COL (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether fund allocated by the Union Government under Annapurna Scheme remains unspent by various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same, State-wise;

(c) the criteria for allocation of funds and guidelines for utilization of funds;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make any changes in guidelines/criteria;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper utilisation;

(g) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from States for distribution of foodgrains under Annapurna Scheme;

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

(i) the status of proposals received from the States, as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) After a review of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes by the Planning Commission, in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Development, the Annapurna and the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) have been transferred to the State Plan from the year, 2002-03. Now the state-wise allocation is approved by the Planning Commission, and funds are released by the Ministry of Finance/Ministry of Home Affairs as Additional Central

Assistance (ACA) to the States/UTs on monthly basis. In accordance with the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) objectives, the original allocation of Rs. 679.87 crore for the financial year 2004-05 under the NSAP and Annapurna Scheme has been enhanced by Rs. 510.00 crores. The States/UTs-wise revised allocation of Rs. 1189.87 crore duly approved by the Planning Commission is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The State-wise allocation has been worked out on the basis of the Numerical Ceilings and Qualifying Financial Entitlement for each State determined on the basis of parameters of State population, poverty ratio and proportion of 65+age group in total population and age specific mortality, since August, 1995.

The ACA provided to the State/UTs under the Annapurna and NSAP could be utilised by the States/UTs on Welfare Schemes of Old Age Pension, Family Benefit or free foodgrains to the aged by taking up one or two or all of the three or in any other combination in accordance with their own priorities and needs.

(d) to (f) The current guidelines have been framed with an objective to provide the requisite flexibility to the States/UTs in the choice and the implementation of the Schemes.

(g) to (i) The information is being collected from the Department of Food & Public Distribution and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) & Annapurna

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Revised Combined Allocation (2004-05)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6742.62
2.	Bihar	13205.06
3.	Chhattisgarh	2888.60
4.	Goa	66.90
5.	Gujarat	3580.34

1	2	3
6.	Haryana	1310.94
7.	Himachal Pradesh	546.83
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	734.65
9.	Jharkhand	4612.55
10.	Karnataka	5204.61
11.	Kerala	2872.43
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7644.82
13.	Maharashtra	10227.84
14.	Orissa	5896.20
15.	Punjab	897.34
16.	Rajasthan	3771.19
17.	Tamil Nadu	7038.76
18.	Uttar Pradesh	19839.69
19.	Uttaranchal	1223.52
20.	West Bengal	7988.73
Sub Total		106293.63
UTs		
21.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	42.70
22.	Chandigarh	28.91
23.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	34.20
24.	Daman and Diu	3.78
25.	NCT Delhi	566.68
26.	Lakshadweep	2.83
27.	Pondicherry	115.26
Sub Total		794.37
Total		107088.00
NE States		
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	415.42
29.	Assam	8217.33
30.	Manipur	628.87

1	2	3
31.	Meghalaya	684.66
32.	Mizoram	195.83
33.	Nagaland	446.99
34.	Sikkim	190.68
35.	Tripura	1119.23
Sub Total		11899.00
Grand Total		118987.00

Export of Handicrafts

616. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to competition in world market the Government proposes new strategy for export of handicrafts in international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the export of handicraft items during each of the last three years;

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earned through export of handicrafts during each of the last three years;

(e) the target fixed for the current financial year for export of handicrafts; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of handicrafts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The future strategies of Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) and Carpet Export Promotion Council (CEPC) include: focused export promotion programmes in strong market; tapping new and unexplored markets; new product segments; diversification of product line; quality improvement; broadening base of export pockets; aggressive international marketing projects; strengthening Indian handicrafts and gifts fair and participation in fairs abroad etc.

(c) and (d) The export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpet and the foreign exchange earned thereof during each of the last three years is as under:

Year	Exports (Rs. In crores)
2001-02	9205.63
2002-03	10933.67
2003-04	12765.18

(e) A target of Rs. 14383.00 crores has been fixed for export of handicrafts including hand-knotted carpets during the current financial year i.e. 2004-05.

(f) The steps taken by the Government for promotion of handicrafts in the country include: implementation of schemes for Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research and Development etc. Integrated development of craft clusters is also being taken up by organizing the artisans into Self Help Groups under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY).

Modernisation of Mints

617. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to modernise the India Government Mints in order to bridge the gap between demand for the coins and augmenting the minting capacity of mints;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The existing minting capacity of India Government Mints are sufficient for meeting the present demand of coins.

Joint Study Group for India and Russia

618. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a joint study group on a possible comprehensive economic cooperation agreement between India and Russia;

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

(c) the aims and objectives for setting up of such group;

(d) the percentage of trade the Government expect to increase on the recommendations of such group; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to increase trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir. During his meeting with visiting Deputy Prime Minister of Russian Federation to India in November 2004, Commerce & Industry Minister has suggested for setting up of a Joint Study Group (JSG) as a first step for beginning discussions on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement which was welcomed by the Russian Deputy Prime Minister.

(b) to (d) Details are being worked out.

(e) To enhance India's exports to Russia, Government has taken a number of steps which include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-Group mechanism, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

Reduction in Budget Deficit of Central Government

619. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank President during his recent visit to India has suggested Central Government to bring down the deficit in Central Government budgets;

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

(c) whether the Central Government have evolved any policy to reduce fiscal deficit; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During the visit of World Bank President, the importance of progressive elimination of revenue deficit and reduction of the overall deficit as an ingredient for sustained accelerated growth was underlined.

(b) to (d) The Central Government has been following a comprehensive strategy to reduce fiscal deficit, which aims at increasing tax revenues and non-tax receipts, achieving moderation in growth of expenditure and sustaining growth momentum of the economy. Through measures such as above, Central Government is committed to reducing its fiscal deficit, as enjoined by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. The Act provides, *inter alia*, a legal and institutional framework to eliminate revenue deficit, bring down fiscal deficit and contain the growth of public debt in proportion to GDP within a time frame by March 31, 2009.

Revamp of NJMC

620. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to revamp the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation (NJMC) and to revive the closed jute mills under it; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) and (b) In consonance with the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government which specially emphasises a fresh impetus to the Jute Industry, Government is considering to revive certain mills of National Jute Manufacturers Corporation.

Closure of Private Banks

621. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a number of private sector banks have closed down due to their failure during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of banks out of them merged with other banks;

(c) the loss suffered by the depositors due to failure of these banks and the reasons for failure; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the investors' interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) During the last three years only four private sector banks including one Local Area Bank have failed. They have been amalgamated under section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 as per details given below:

Name of transferor bank	Name of transferee bank	Date of Amalgamation
Benaras State Bank Ltd.	Bank of Baroda	20.06.2002
Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	Punjab National Bank	01.02.2003
South Gujarat Local Area Bank	Bank of Baroda	25.06.2004
Global Trust Bank Ltd.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	14.08.2004

(c) In the cases of amalgamation of Nedungadi Bank Ltd., South Gujarat Local Area Bank Ltd. and the Global Trust Bank Ltd., the interest of depositors had been fully safeguarded. In the case of amalgamation of Benaras State Bank Ltd. the liabilities of depositors were to be met on pro rata basis. The major reasons for failure of private sector banks have been due to weak capital structure, improper management, high level of NPAs and high cost of funds etc.

(d) In order to avoid the recurrence of such failures in future, RBI has taken several steps which, inter-alia, include introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel norms; prudential norms on asset classification, income recognition and provisioning; introduction of valuation norms and capital for market risk for investments; enhancing transparency and disclosure requirements for published accounts; aligning exposure/Capital market exposure norms; introduction of off-site monitoring system and strengthening of the supervisory framework;/introduction of Risk Based Supervision for banks and introduction of a framework for prompt corrective action.

[*Translation*]

Electoral Reforms

622. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to bring about certain reforms in the electoral system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these reforms are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government is committed to continuing the process of reform of electoral laws. In this connection, the Government is seized of the issue of State funding of Elections, which is one of the items of the common Minimum Programme of the United Progressive Alliance, and the set of 22 proposals on electoral reforms received from the Election Commission of India, the details of which have been made available for general information of the public by the Commission's Press Note No. ECI/ PN/26/2004 dated 2.8.2004.

(c) The process of reform of electoral laws is, however, a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties, which is a time consuming process. No time frame, therefore, can be indicated in this regard.

[*English*]

Trade Policy

623. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has announced five year trade policy;

(b) if so, what are the details of the policy announced by the Government and steps taken to implement the policy;

(c) the what extent agriculture exports and other major thrust sectors have been given great emphasis;

(d) whether the foreign trade policy sets the goal of doubling India's percentage share of global trade;

(e) special steps taken to achieve the goal and how far the Government is hopeful to achieve the target;

(f) whether various sectors including small scale agricultural, cottage and traditional sectors have opposed this policy; and

(g) if so, the steps taken to provide success to these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (e) The Government has announced the new Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 on 31st August, 2004. A copy of the new Foreign Trade Policy outlining the details and initiatives taken thereunder is available in the Parliament Library. The new Foreign Trade Policy announced on 31st August, 2004 sets a target of doubling India's percentage share of global trade within 5 years. With this in view, certain special focus initiatives have been identified for the agriculture, handlooms, handicrafts, gems & jewellery and leather sectors. The Government is making concerted efforts to promote exports in these sectors by specific sectoral strategies which shall be notified from time to time.

(f) and (g) No Sir. On the contrary these sectors have welcomed the Foreign Trade Policy as it provides thrust to these sectors through various Export Promotion Schemes and through Special Focus Initiatives. Chapter 1 B of the Foreign Trade Policy outlines the new sectoral initiatives in thrust sectors relating to Agriculture, Handlooms, Handicrafts, Gems & Jewellery and Leather & Footwear.

Supreme Court Benches

624. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for establishment of benches of the Supreme Court in the four corners of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir. In view of the opposition of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of India, on several occasions, to setting up its Bench, away from its principal seat at Delhi, the Government do not propose to set up any Bench of the Supreme Court outside Delhi.

(b) Does not arise.

Funding to States for Externally Aided Projects

625. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the pattern of funding to States for externally aided projects;

(b) if so, whether as per this proposal all grants will go directly to States as 100% grants;

(c) if so, whether States have welcomed these measures and how many States have agreed to this proposal and how many opposed it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) As already mentioned in Finance Minister's Budget Speech for 2004-05, there is a proposal to pass on external loans and grants to States on a back-to-back basis. State Governments are being consulted in this regard.

World Bank and ADB Loan to Gujarat

626. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the project-wise loan provided by the world Bank and Asian Development Bank to Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) the names of the countries which have proposed for providing loan to Gujarat and the names of the project of Gujarat for which these efforts have been made;

(c) whether the Union Government has accepted those proposals; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) World Bank and Asian Development Bank assisted State Sector projects approved during the last three years in Gujarat are Gujarat Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Programme Phase-II and Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Project respectively.

(b) to (d) Germany has made a commitment for supporting Earthquake Rehabilitation work in Gujarat.

Reforms in Banking Sector

627. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced more reforms in banking sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it would help in reducing bad debt and competitiveness in global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In order to tackle the problems facing banking industry several reform measures have been taken by way of effective legislative measures and new initiatives to make our banks more efficient, viable and of global standards. As a part of legislative measures Govt. has decided to revise or enact the following laws:

1. The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 is being amended to validate the banking licences issued by RBI to cooperative societies registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act and to enable the deposits of small depositors of these Banks to be insured by Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.
2. The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 is being amended in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's order to provide defaulting borrowers a fair opportunity to represent their cases and at the same time to dissuade the borrowers from indulging in dilatory tactics so as to postpone repayment of dues.

3. A new legislation on Payment and Settlement Systems is proposed to provide for a legal basis to recognize clearing houses, legal sanction to netting of payments with receipts, finality of settlement, recognition of service providers and participants, clearing mode of payments and to provide explicit powers to RBI to supervise securities clearing and settlement.

4. A Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Law is proposed to provide necessary legislative support to the business of credit information and for regulation of credit information companies.

Further, as a part of new initiatives towards reforms of the banking sector in the country, the Public Sector Banks are seriously evaluating to adopt consolidation as one of the strategies to strengthen themselves.

Package for Bihar for Development to Handloom and Handicraft

628. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any demand from various sections of society to declare Bihar as Backward State in regard to Handloom and Handicraft Sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on such demand;

(d) whether Bihar Government has demanded any special package for development of Handloom and Handicraft in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the year-wise details of the funds allocated by the Government to Bihar for promotion of Handloom and Handicraft in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) A proposal was received from the Government of Bihar in July, 2004 seeking sanction of funds to the tune

of Rs. 87.10 crore for the handloom weavers as special package. Under the proposal, the Government of Bihar had sought sanction of funds on a number of heads which were not covered under any of the Schemes being implemented by this office. The proposal, in original, was therefore, returned to the State Government with a request to segregate the components scheme-wise and send projects in accordance with the guidelines of the Schemes of this office. The same is awaited.

(f) The details of funds released by the Central government under various schemes for development and promotion of Handloom and Handicraft sectors in the State of Bihar during the last three years are as under:

Funds released for Handloom Sector

(Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Funds released
2001-02	6.50
2002-03	6.25
2003-04	110.42

Funds released for Handicraft Sector

Year	Funds released
2001-02	82.31
2002-03	11.80
2003-04	9.64

Import of Scrap Metals

629. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of ammunition came to India in the form of scrap from Iran and Gulf Countries and landed at Kandla Port;

(b) whether the Government has inquired into the whole case of importing live ammunition in the form of scrap in the country;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the remedial steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has revised the procedure in customs clearance in regard to scrap;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any involvement of customs officials was found in this episode; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and remedial steps taken or being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Six consignments of metal scrap were reported to contain suspected war related explosive materials, had been imported from Iran, Jordan and Kuwait through Kandla Port.

(b) Yes Sir. Jurisdictional customs authorities have also conducted detailed examination of the imported scrap with the help of local Police authorities.

(c) Government have taken immediate corrective measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents by 100% physical examination of metal scrap already landed in Indian ports and further restrictions on such imports have been prescribed in the Foreign Trade Policy by the Director General of Foreign Trade.

(d) and (e) Comprehensive instructions have been issued for the clearance of metal scrap by issue of Circulars No. 56/2004-Customs dated 18th October, 2004 and No. 60/2004-Customs dated 26th October, 2004. (copy enclosed as Statement-I and II respectively).

(f) and (g) No involvement of Customs officers has been found in such import. However, a Superintendent and an Inspector of Customs who examined and cleared the consignment of metal scrap at Inland Container Depot, Tughlakabad, relating to an explosion that took place at a steel manufacturing factory in Ghazlabad on 30.09.2004, have been suspended.

Statement I

Circular No. 56/2004-Cus

F.No. 450/108/2004-CUS-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Finance
Department of Revenue
Central Board of Excise & Customs

New Delhi, dated the 18th October, 2004

To,

All Chief Commissioner of Customs,
All Chief Commissioner of Central Excise,
All Chief Commissioner of Customs & Central Excise,
Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
webmaster@cbec.gov.in
editor@taxindiaonline.com
elit.centax@spectamet.com

Sir,

**Subject: Clearance of Imported metal scraps—
Procedure regarding.**

I am directed to say that till date following Circulars/ instructions have been issued relating to the procedure for clearance of imported metal scrap, namely:

- (i) 43/95-Cus. dated 26.4.1995
- (ii) 46/97-Cus. dated 6.10.1997
- (iii) Chairman's letter D.O.F. No. L-6390/CH(EC)/2004 dated 11.10.2004.

2. The whole issue has since been reviewed in the background of the recent explosion at the premises of a scrap importer at Ghaziabad resulting in the death of ten persons. Consultations have been held with the concerned Ministries, namely Commerce & Industry, Home, Shipping, Steel and External Affairs. Discussions have also taken place between the concerned Trade Associations and the Government of India. Keeping all these aspects in mind, and in suppression of all existing instructions on the subject, it has been decided to follow the following procedure for clearance of imported metal scrap (both ferrous and non-ferrous).

3. The metal scrap may be divided in two categories, namely:

- (i) **Category-1:** Scrap which has already landed in India and that which has left its port of origin on or before 25.10.2004, and which has not yet been cleared from a customs port, ICD/CFS or LCS,
- (ii) **Category-2:** Scrap which is to be loaded for shipment to India after 25.10.2004.

4. In respect of Category-1 the following procedure will be followed:

- (i) Metal scrap would be cleared after 100% physical examination. Depending upon the congestion at the Port/ICD, the availability of manpower and the antecedents of the importer, the concerned Commissioner of Customs or Commissioner of Central Excise, as the case may be, may permit the importer to remove the sealed container at his own risk and cost to his factory premises under re-warehousing procedure. The Central excise officer having

jurisdiction over the manufacturer-importer would ensure 100% physical examination of the consignment. Thereafter, the re-warehousing certificate will be sent back to the consignment. Thereafter, the re-warehousing certificate will be sent back to the port/ICD of clearance for reconciliation. The local Central Excise Officer may requisition the services of the local police for their advice/guidance or presence during the physical examination of the scrap. The cost, if any for requisitioning the services of the police or para-military forces would be borne by the importer-manufacturer. The Ministry of Home Affairs have already written to the Chief Secretaries/Home Secretaries of all States and UTs vide their fax message No. I. 11034/18/04-IS.IV dated 15.10.2004 (copy enclosed), to provide necessary police assistance to Customs as and when requested. This facility of examination at the importer's premises will not be available to traders.

- (ii) Similar procedure will be followed for examination of metal scrap consignments at the ports/ICDs/CFSs/LCSs where it is decided to do the examination at the port/ICD/CFS/LCS itself instead of allowing it to be done at the manufacturer-importer's premises.

5. As regards Category-2, i.e. future imports of metal scrap, the following procedure will be followed, namely:

- (i) Import of metal scrap in shredded form will be permitted through all ports/ICDs/CFSs/LCSs without any pre-shipment inspection certificate.
- (ii) Import and clearance of metal scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form would be permitted only at the following customs stations. Such consignments need not be shifted to the premises of the importer (except for EOU and SEZ units). Efforts should be made, with the help of port authorities/custodians, to identify and segregate an open area of storage and examination of metal scraps at these customs stations:

1. Chennai,
2. Cochin,
3. Ennore,
4. JNPT,
5. Kandla,

6. Mormugao,
 7. Mumbai,
 8. New Mangalore,
 9. Paradip,
 10. Tuticorin,
 11. Vishakhapatnam,
 12. ICD, Tughlakabad, New Delhi,
 13. Pipava,
 14. Mundra, and
 15. Kolkatta.
- (iii) In all future cases, metal scraps in unshredded, compressed or loose form will have to be accompanied with a pre-shipment inspection certificate as per format in Annexure-1 to Appendix-8 from any of the Inspection and Certification Agencies given in Appendix-28 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. II). It may be noted that for such scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form, this pre-shipment certificate will be required irrespective of the fact whether or not the consignment has originated from a country affected by war or rebellion.
- (vi) IN respect of metal scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form accompanied by a pre-shipment inspection certificate as detailed in clause (iii) above, examination will be 25% of the containers in respect of manufacturer-importers and 50% in respect of traders, for each import consignment, subject to examination of a minimum of one container. The container selected will be examined 100%. Where EDI is operational with Risk Management Module (RMM), the percentage of examination will be determined by the RMM.
- (v) For metal scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form imported in future if not accompanied by the prescribed pre-shipment inspection certificate, will be subject to 100% examination apart from stringent penal action for violation of provisions of the Foreign Trade Policy. The examination may be done in the presence of police authorities, if considered necessary by the Commissioner, at the risk & cost of the importer.

(vi) for scrap imported in shredded form examination may be limited to 10% of the consignment subject to examination of minimum one container. The container so identified should be examined 100%.

6. In respect of metal scrap consignments meant for EOU's and SEZ units the existing procedure may continue subject to 100% examination at the premises of the EOU or the SEZ unit, in the presence of police authorities, if considered necessary by the proper officer. Imports of scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form (after 25.10.2004) will, however, be allowed for EOU/SEZ units only through the above 15 customs stations.

7. It will also be the responsibility of the shipping line to henceforth ensure that every consignment of metal scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form is accompanied by such a pre-shipment inspection certificate before it is loaded on the ship. Failure to observe this precaution would invite penal action for abatement regarding irregular import of metal scrap.

8. The DGFT has since amended para 2.32 of the Handbook of Procedure (Volume-I) vide their Public Notice No. 16/2004-09 dated 15.10.2004.

9. It may be noted that under the Home Ministry's fax message dated 15.10.2004 the State Governments have also been advised to give 15 days grace period to the importers and factory owners to voluntarily declare the existence/discovery of any shells/explosives in the metal scrap lying in their premises.

10. These instructions may be implemented forthwith to ensure quick evacuation/clearance of consignments of metal scrap lying at various customs stations.

11. The difficulties, if any, in implementing these procedures, should immediately be brought to the notice of the Board.

12. The above guidelines may be brought to the notice of the Trade immediately through appropriate Public Notice/Trade Notice.

13. Receipt of this Circular may kindly be acknowledged.

14. Hindi version will follow.

Yours faithfully
Sd/-

(D.S. Garbyal)
Under Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No. 23094182

Encl: As above

To:

1. PS to Chairman (E&C),
2. All Members, CBEC
3. CDR, CESTAT
4. All Directorates, CBEC
5. All Commissioners, CBEC
6. All Joint Secretaries/Directors/Deputy Secretaries, CBEC
7. All Under Secretaries/STOs/TOs, CBEC
8. Guard file.

Sd/-

(D.S. Garbyal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No. 23094182

MOST IMMEDIATE

Fax Message

From: Home, New Delhi

To: Chief Secretaries/Home Secretaries of all States and UTs

Repeat: DsGP of all States and UTs

Principal Secretary (Home), Govt. of NCT of Delhi/Commissioner of Police, Delhi (through Spl. Messenger)

No. 11034/18/04-IS.IV

Dated 15-10-2004

This is in Continuation of the earlier Fax Message of even number dated 13-10-2004 (.) In an Inter-Ministerial meeting chaired by the Union Minister for Commerce today, it was decided that the State Governments should be advised to give 15 days grace period to the steel and iron factories to carry out inspections and voluntarily declare existence/discovery of shells/explosives in the metal scrap lying in their premises (.) In case, this is not done by them and subsequently the explosives are detected in the metal scrap lying with them, penal action under the relevant laws should be taken against them (.) This has been considered necessary to ensure public safety in view of the fact that such shells/explosives have been found in public places like roads, river beds etc. (.)

2. The State Governments are also required to instruct the district police authorities to render assistance to the customs authorities as and when their services are solicited by the latter for carrying out checks for shells/

explosives in the metal scrap at the premises of steel and iron factories or at certain identified places.

Sd/-

(LC Goyal)

Joint Secretary (IS)

NOO

Copy for information to:

1. Shri KT Chacko, DGFT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
2. Shri Siddharth Kak, Member (Customs), CBEC, North Block, New Delhi.

Statement II

Circular No. 60/2004-Cus

F.No. 450/108/2004-CUS-IV

Government of India

Ministry of Finance

Department of Revenue

Central Board of Excise & Customs

New Delhi, dated the 26th October, 2004

To,

All Chief Commissioner of Customs,
All Chief Commissioner of Central Excise,
All Chief Commissioner of Customs & Central Excise,
Director General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence
webmaster@cbec.gov.in
editor@taxindiaonline.com
elt.centax@spectamet.com

Sir,

**Subject: Clearance of imported metal scraps—
Procedure regarding.**

I am directed to invite your attention to the Board's Circular No. 56/2004-Cus, dated 18th October, 2004 on the above mentioned subject and to say that the Directorate General of Foreign Trade vide Public Notice No. 18/2004-09, dated 21.10.2004 have further amended the Para 2.32 (i) (I) of Handbook of Procedure (Vol. I). As per this the requirement of pre-shipment inspecting certificate to the accompanied with the imported metal scrap in unshredded, compressed or loose form should be as per the format in Annexure-I to Appendix-28 and not Annexure to Appendix-8 as notified by DGFT's vide

Public Notice No. 16/2004-09, dated 15.10.2004. Accordingly, the Board hereby makes following amendment in the Circular No. 56/2004-Cus, dated 18.10.2004.

In para 5 (iii), for the portion beginning with the word and number "Annexure-I" and ending with the words, brackets and number "Handbook of Procedure (Vol. II)", the following shall be substituted, namely:

"Statement-1 to Appendix-28 from any of the Inspection and Certification Agencies given in Appendix-28 of the Handbook of Procedures (Vol. I)".

2. Further, the field formations have also expressed doubts regarding para 4 (i) of the Board's Circular No. 56/2004-Cus, dated 18.10.2004 as to whether in such cases the containers should be allowed to be removed after payment of Customs duty or in bond. It is clarified that such facility has been provided to manufacturer importers of metals scrap which have landed on or before 25.10.2004, keeping in mind the congestion at port/ICD. The containers may be allowed to be removed to premises of manufacturer importer only for examination purpose whereas the Customs duty has to be pre-deposited by the importer before removing the containers from Port/ICD.

3. The above instructions may be brought to the notice of the Trade immediately through appropriate Public Notice.

4. Receipt of this Circular may kindly be acknowledged.

5. Hindi version will follow.

Yours faithfully

Sd/-

(D.S. Garbyal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No. 23094182

To:

1. PS to Chairman (E&C),
2. All Members, CBEC
3. CDR, CESTAT
4. All Directorates, CBEC
5. All Commissioners, CBEC
6. All Joint Secretaries/Directors/Deputy Secretaries, CBEC

7. All Under Secretaries/STOs/TOs, CBEC
8. Guard file.

Sd/-

(D.S. Garbyal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Phone No. 23094182

Foreign Exchange Reserves

630. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to utilize the foreign exchange reserve for the Infrastructure Development projects in the country with a view to adequately use of foreign exchange reserve as suggested by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the sectors where the foreign exchange reserves are likely to be utilized sector-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) India's total foreign exchange reserves are now more than US\$ 125 billion. Any decision to utilize a part of foreign exchange reserve for funding domestic projects requires careful assessment *inter alia*, of the impact of such a measure on the fiscal situation, money supply, exchange rate, domestic interest rates and inflation.

[Translation]

Import of Gambler

631. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

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

(a) whether a hazardous chemical i.e. gambier is being imported openly for use as catechu for mixing it in pan gutkha which is causing dreaded disease like cancer;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the import of said chemical is not being stopped;

(c) whether the Government is considering banning import of gambier; and

(d) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) Gambier is a vegetable based tanning material and is used for dyeing purposes by the leather industry. Since the basic objective of the Foreign Trade Policy is to provide raw materials at international prices it may not be possible to restrict import of Gambier as it may have an adverse impact on export of leather goods from India.

[English]

Special Package to Boost Exports

632. SHRI KHIREN RIJUJU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) increase in export registered during last three years, year-wise and item-wise details;

(b) impact of increase in export on employment generation;

(c) whether any attention has been paid to the suggestion made by CII that the export percentage can be increased from 11 percent to 17 percent; and

(d) measures taken to enhance the exports in the various sectors particularly textiles, tea and coffee consequent of new foreign trade policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The value of exports in million US dollars, year-wise and item-wise including the employment intensive items like agro & allied products, sports goods, gems & jewellery, textiles and leather & manufacturers is placed at Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The suggestions of Trade and Industry including CII are taken while fixing the export targets. Taking into account the favourable global economic environment and the performance in the past, an export target of 16% corresponding to a level of US\$ 73.4 billion has been fixed for the year 2004-05 which is higher than the target of 12% fixed for the last two years.

(d) Foreign Trade Policy has been announced with the twin objective of doubling India's share of global merchandise trade within the next five years and also giving a thrust to employment generation. Some of the key strategies include: Simplification of procedures and reduction in transaction cost; Neutralizing incidence of all levies and duties on inputs used in export production; linking commercial missions abroad through an electronic platform for trade intelligence and enquiry dissemination, etc. A price Stabilisation fund was announced in 2003 with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore to provide relief to planters when the price of tea, coffee, etc. fall below a specific level. Foreign Trade Policy has always accorded priority status to the textile sector. This is evident from the fact that there is a separate chapter in the Handbook of Procedures Volume-II defining Input/Output Norms for 362 categories of textiles and garment products. Similarly DEPB rates have been fixed for almost all textile products exported from the country. Handloom sector has also been identified as one of the Special Initiative Focus sector in the Foreign Trade Policy.

Statement I

Ministry of Commerce & Industry

Department of Commerce

Economic Division

Sector-wise Exports: 1992-2004

Commodities	Values in US \$ Million			Percentage Growth		
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I. Plantation	590	547	583	-9.35	-7.30	6.58
II. Agri & Allied Prdts.	4065	4721	5326	4.78	16.13	12.82

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
III. Marine Products		1237	1432	1320	-11.26	15.79	-7.82
IV. Ores & Minerals		1262	1996	2341	9.49	58.11	17.28
V. Leather & Mfrs.		1910	1848	2025	-1.76	-3.25	9.58
VI. Gems & Jewellery		7306	9030	10510	-1.05	23.59	16.39
VII. Sports Goods		69	73	93	6.31	6.26	27.40
VIII. Chemicals & Related Products		6371	7858	9791	3.15	23.33	24.60
IX. Engineering Goods		5747	7689	10414	1.30	33.80	35.44
X. Electronic Goods		1193	1295	1739	6.49	8.59	34.29
XI. Project Goods		18	49	60	-27.87	165.49	22.45
XII. Textiles		9689	11081	11970	-9.40	14.37	8.02
XIII. Handicrafts		549	785	442	-17.02	43.00	-43.69
XIV. Carpets		510	533	570	-12.29	4.46	6.94
XV. Cotton Raw Incl. Waste		9	10	177	-81.50	8.80	1717.25
XVI. Petroleum Prdts		2119	2577	3519	11.98	21.61	36.55

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

GDP Projection

633. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has recently scale down its GDP projection to 6-6.5 per cent for 2004-05 from its earlier estimate of 6.5-7 percent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India in its Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement for 2004-05 (October 26, 2004) has placed the overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for 2004-05 in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 percent compared with its May 2004 projection of 6.5 to 7.0

percent. The revision is on account of deficient rainfall in some parts of the country and its likely adverse impact on kharif crop output and the adverse impact of higher oil prices on GDP growth.

(c) The Government has taken a number of measures to improve the growth prospects of the economy. These, inter alia, include a comprehensive policy on credit aimed at doubling the flow of agricultural credit in three years, higher allocations under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, revival of rural Infrastructure Development Fund, launching a scheme for repair, renovation and restoration of all water bodies, promotion of public private partnership for infrastructure development, decision to set up an Investment Commission and additional provision of Rs. 10,000 crore of gross budgetary support to the 2004-05 Annual Plan.

Import of Metal Scrap

634. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bombay metal Exchange has requested for reconsidering ban on importing non-ferrous metals scrap;

(b) if so, whether Commerce Minister has examined the suggestions made by the Bombay Metal Exchange;

(c) if so, what extent Government has been able to consider suggestions;

(d) whether Finance Minister and the Director General of Foreign Trade has settled the differences over the import policy on metallic scrap;

(e) if so, to what extent these differences have been settled;

(f) whether new proposal is being considered for import of metallic scrap in future; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) A suggestion has been received from Bombay Metal Exchange for exempting import of non-ferrous waste and scrap from the present procedures laid down, in this regard.

(b) and (c) The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has examined this suggestion. The import of all kinds of metallic scrap and waste are required to adhere to the present procedures in order to ensure that they do not contain any explosive or radio-active material. This procedure has been put in place after wide consultations with concerned Ministers/Departments. It has not been found feasible to accede to the request of Bombay Metal Exchange.

(d) and (e) There is no difference of opinion between the Finance Minister and the DGFT with regard to the import Policy on metallic scrap. In fact, the present procedures for import of metallic scrap and waste has been laid down in consultation with Finance and other Ministries.

(f) and (g) Any future policy change will be made in public interest and keeping in view the Security considerations and the needs of the Trade and Industry.

Gramin Banks

635. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan provided by the Gramin Banks in various States particularly in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers are not getting any special benefit following the increasing corruption in these banks;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to provide sufficient loans to farmers through these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Loan issued by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in various states and in Gujarat during the last two years are as under.

	(Rs. Crores)	
	2002-03	2003-04
Total Loans issued	12641.00	15475.86
Loans issued in Gujarat	355.08	391.77

(b) to (d) The loans issued by RRBs increased from Rs. 12641.00 crore during 2002-2003 to Rs. 15475.86 crore during 2003-2004. The steady growth in loans and advances during the previous years reveal that farmers are getting the benefit of the RRBs consistently. There are systems and procedures in place to look into the complaints/charges of corruption etc. levelled by the public/farmers against the staff of RRBs for sanction of loans, etc. and to take corrective measures. Further the following steps have been taken for improving the performance of the RRBs.

(i) Introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in a planned way and introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, asset classification and provisioning norms;

(ii) diversification of business portfolios and activities;

(iii) rationalization of branch network including relocation and merger of loss making branches;

(iv) deregulation of interest rate structure;

- (v) Increasing the role of the sponsor banks in management of affairs of RRBs; and
 (vi) skill upgradation of RRB employees.

Winding up of Commissions of Ministries

636. SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating winding up of several commission constituted under various Central Ministries to curtail the infructuous expenditure;

(b) if so, the Ministry-wise details of all such commissions, showing their composition and term of reference and the number of reports submitted by them so far;

(c) the expenditure incurred on these commissions;

(d) whether any review on the working and necessity of these commissions has been conducted; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government, Commission-wise?

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

Posts of Commissioners of Central Excise

637. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of posts of Commissioner of Central Excise in India alongwith those lying vacant, State-wise;

(b) whether there is any proposal for filling up these posts; and

(c) if so, the by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The details of the posts of Commissioner of Central Excise and those lying vacant state-wise are given in the statement attached.

(b) and (c) These posts are proposed to be filled up as and when officers become available for posting.

Statement

Details of Posts of Commissioner of Central Excise in India (State/Union Territory-wise)

Sl.No.	State	No. of Posts Sanctioned	Vacancy, if any
1.	Gujarat	20	1
2.	Daman (UT)	2	0
3.	Karnataka	9	0
4.	Madhya Pradesh	6	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	1
6.	Orissa	3	0
7.	Chandigarh (UT)	2	0
8.	Punjab	4	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1	0
10.	Tamil Nadu	14	0
11.	Pondicherry (UT)	1	0
12.	Kerala	4	0
13.	Delhi	4	0
14.	Haryana	5	0
15.	Andhra Pradesh	13	0
16.	Rajasthan	4	0
17.	West Bengal	13	1
18.	Uttar Pradesh	14	1
19.	Maharashtra	24	1
20.	Goa	2	0
21.	Bihar	2	0
22.	Jharkhand	3	0
23.	Assam	2	0
24.	Meghalaya	2	0

Beneficiaries of PMRY

638. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people targeted under 'Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana' and those benefited, State-wise;

(b) the obstacles in the way of the implementation alongwith the steps to remove the same;

(c) whether any irregularities have been found out in the Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The state-wise

details of Plan-targets and number of persons benefited (disbursed loans) during the last three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) are at Statement-I.

(b) The obstacles in the way of its implementation are gap between number of applicants sanctioned and disbursed loans, delay in sanction/disbursement of loans, under-financing of proposals & insistence of collateral security by banks, delay in completing pre-disbursement formalities by the beneficiaries etc. Several measures have been taken to remove the obstacles in the implementation of PMRY e.g. instructions to the implementing agencies to complete the activities of sponsoring, sanctioning and disbursement as per the prescribed quarterly schedule, convening District Industries Centers (DIC) Task Force Committee Meetings atleast once in a month, instructions to fix area-wise minimum unit cost of the activity, non-insistence of collateral security as per the prescribed guidelines, extending the cut off date for completion of disbursement beyond the financial year etc.

(c) and (d) No irregularity has been found in the implementation of the PMRY.

Statement

State/UT-wise Targets and Achievement (number of persons disbursed loans) during the last three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04 under the PMRY

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Plan Target (No.)	No. of cases Disbursed by banks (for 2001-02)	Plan Target (No.)	No. of cases Disbursed by banks (for 2002-03)	Plan Target (No.)	No. of cases Disbursed by banks# (for 2003-04)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Northern Region							
1.	Haryana	4400	6600	4600	7008	4050	6662
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2600	2431	2700	2209	3200	2587
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	1300	894	1400	605	1150	641
4.	Punjab	4200	8147	4000	7771	4100	6715
5.	Rajasthan	8200	12476	7300	12267	8100	9772
6.	Chandigarh	100	128	300	47	300	60
7.	Delhi	4600	632	4600	632	4400	740

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
North Eastern Region							
8.	Assam	6600	3605	6900	4149	6600	2313
9.	Manipur	1100	252	1300	549	1200	435
10.	Meghalaya	350	546	300	256	350	326
11.	Nagaland	250	37	250	107	300	39
12.	Tripura	800	981	700	1085	800	1968
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	150	507	150	294	200	319
14.	Mizoram	250	52	250	155	200	772
15.	Sikkim	50	38	50	26	100	29
Eastern Region							
16.	Bihar	18000	8851	18100	7939	14400	8357
17.	Jharkhand	3000	3882	2900	4354	5350	3894
18.	Orissa	7050	5791	6850	6725	6600	3143
19.	West Bengal	22000	2403	21100	2528	20000	2040
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	100	143	75	142	100	140
Central Region							
21.	Madhya Pradesh	14100	17314	14300	16710	11750	13675
22.	Chhattisgarh	2500	2549	2250	3006	4600	2295
23.	Uttar Pradesh	25100	37802	25450	38016	22950	35229
24.	Uttaranchal	1000	3626	925	4683	1800	5038
Western Region							
25.	Gujarat*	12150	8104	7950	7184	8650	5805
26.	Maharashtra	22300	18904	22150	17631	22800	15859
27.	Daman and Diu	50	8	50	2	50	3
28.	Goa	500	164	500	274	400	117
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	10	50	10	50	0
Southern Region							
30.	Andhra Pradesh	16600	10799	17900	13632	18400	14463
31.	Karnataka	10700	11428	10500	10026	10800	10729

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Kerala	14700	9510	15250	9853	16250	11824
33.	Tamilnadu	18550	10051	17400	9595	19350	10033
34.	Lakshadweep	50	25	50	10	50	17
35.	Pondicherry	450	216	450	213	600	253
	Not Specified	—	954	—	828	—	808
	All India	223900	189860	220000	190521	220000	177100

Source: RBI data

*Additional target of 4000 for Gujarat during 2001-2002 for earthquake affected districts.

#The last date for disbursement had been extended to 15.11.2004. The figures given in the table are upto October 2004.

Public Deposits

639. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-banking company has since rectified the irregularities/deficiencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which steps proposed to be taken to rectify the deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the company has initiated steps to rectify all the deficiencies/irregularities. Some of the deficiencies observed during the inspection of the books of accounts and other records of the company carried out between November 03, 2003 and January 09, 2004 have been rectified by the company. The position of compliance is being closely monitored by RBI.

Swajaldhara Yojana

640. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount released under Swajaldhara Scheme, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government is planning to bring all drinking water Schemes under the umbrella of Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM);

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to discontinue some of the water supply schemes;

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

(f) whether the capital intensive, large scale ARWSP will be continued;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(h) the policy of the Government regarding continuation of Swajaldhara Scheme which was started by the previous Government in 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) The State/Union Territory-wise details of funds released under Swajaldhara so far are enclosed as Statement.

(b) and (c) Since water is a State subject, the responsibility for planning, implementation, operation and maintenance and management of all rural drinking water supply schemes is of the State Governments. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments in this regard and the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) has since its inception been entrusted the responsibility for administering all centrally sponsored rural drinking water supply schemes and continues to do so.

(d) to (h) There is no proposal to discontinue Swajaldhara, which is one of the components of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).

However, norms of the centrally sponsored schemes are periodically reviewed and modified keeping in view the need and demands voiced by the State Governments.

Statement

State/UT-wise status of release of funds under Swajaldhara Scheme (as on 25.11.2004)

(Rs. in lakhs)

#	State/Union Territory	Amount released under Swajaldhara 2002-03	Amount released under Swajaldhara 2003-04	Amount released under Swajaldhara 2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5670.53	808.00	1224.49
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	223.71	—
3.	Assam	370.12	377.30	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	131.5	—	232.58
5.	Gujarat	162.54	765.56	619.81
6.	Haryana	10.98	117.12	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	335.79	340.11	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	748.95	1170.02
9.	Jharkhand	—	178.01	—
10.	Karnataka	118.31	753.77	940.15
11.	Kerala	272.84	252.02	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	264.49	420.27	—
13.	Maharashtra	3843.86	1086.07	—
14.	Meghalaya	—	—	139.59
15.	Mizoram	—	—	34.67
16.	Nagaland	—	65.11	—
17.	Orissa	335.84	373.03	648.92
18.	Punjab	—	156.89	263.33
19.	Rajasthan	374.52	1095.50	1802.91
20.	Tamilnadu	1394.63	673.20	666.84
21.	Tripura	—	104.36	92.80

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Uttar Pradesh	569.42	766.46	1215.80
23.	Uttaranchal	—	182.00	—
24.	West Bengal	23.88	471.50	—
25.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.74	4.00	—
Total		13883.99	9962.94	9151.91

[*Translation*]

MRTP Commission

641. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased

(a) the status of cases pending with Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission till date;

(b) whether the pending cases with Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission have been reviewed with regard to their registration and disposal during the last three years, metropolitan-wise and State-wise;

(c) the steps being taken or likely to be taken for strengthening and reconstituting of Monopoly and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission during current year; and

(d) the extent to which the steps taken by the Government proved successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Cases are pending with the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) at various stages i.e. reply, rejoinder, farming of issues, hearing of preliminary issue on maintainability, applicant's evidence, respondent's evidence and final arguments. As on 30th November, 2004, 2086 cases were under consideration in the MRTPC.

(b) Registration and disposal of cases is maintained and reviewed in the MRTPC. Being a national quasi-judicial body, MRTPC as such, does not maintained metropolitan-wise and State-wise data.

(c) and (d) The Government makes arrangements as required from time to time to enable the Commission to function as envisaged in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

[*English*]

Handover of DRDA functions to District Panchayats

642. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount released by the Centre to District Rural Development Agencies has not been utilized properly for undertaking development works in villages;

(b) if so, the total number of agencies working under District Rural Development Programme and getting funds from the centre;

(c) whether the Government proposes to link the said agencies through computer network for the purpose of monitoring;

(d) if so, the details thereon;

(e) whether the Government has directed handing over the functions of DRDA to district Panchayats; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The funds are released by the Ministry of Rural Development to the State Governments and District Rural Development Agencies (DRDA) for implementation of various rural development programmes. According to the guidelines in force, Utilization Certificates are required to be furnished

by the DRDAs/Implementing Agencies for obtaining the full allocation of funds. This is to ensure that funds are properly utilized.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development release funds only to the State Governments/UT Administrations and District Rural Development Agencies as per the guidelines of the respective Schemes.

(c) and (d) The DRDAs have been provided with Computer Connectivity, which enables them to transmit information on-line for monitoring the progress of implementation of the programmes.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Question does not arise.

IT Arrears

643. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total income tax arrears as on 31 October 2004;

(b) whether the Government had made a task force for recovery of income tax arrears;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total amount recovered by this task force as on 31 October 2004; and

(e) by when the Government will be able to recover the full arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total income tax dues outstanding as on 31st October 2004 were Rs. 81,892 Crore.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Task Force on Recovery is constituted of Member (Revenue), CBDT, Director General (Admn.), Director of Recovery and other and has the responsibility of evolving and implementing a multi-pronged strategy, specially a case-by-case strategy for collection of tax arrears including:

- Identification of worthwhile cases where recovery of arrears can be made during the course of the financial year through special efforts.

- Identification of high-demand cases pending at various states of litigation and taking of steps for their early disposal.

- Monitoring the progress of hearings in large cases before the ITAT and regulating the adjournments taken by the Departmental Representatives.

- Liaising with the Settlement Commission for early disposal of cases involving high demand and monitoring collection of resultant demand during the financial year itself.

- Associating Investigation Wings at the important centers to aid the recovery process by way of conducting surveys and/or secret enquiries to identify the assets for recovery in difficult cases.

(d) The Task Force on Recovery of tax Arrears is a monitoring and co-ordinating body and is not directly involved in recovery of tax dues.

The Task Force has examined more than 5,500 cases where areas in each case exceed Rs. 1 Crore involving total tax arrears of Rs. 85,000 crore. Out of this, 2,420 live cases involving total arrears of Rs. 21,800 Crore have been identified for intensive efforts for recovery of arrears.

(e) Recovery from tax arrears is a continuous process under which fresh tax demands are added and outstanding dues are liquidated on a continuous basis. Quite a large amount of arrears is in different stages of multifarious litigation. Therefore, it is not feasible to set a time-frame within which the arrears outstanding at present would be fully recovered.

Overdraft Facilities to States

644. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether overdraft facilities has been extended to different States during the last three years;

(b) if so, whether the facility has been utilized fully by all States;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir.

However, Reserve Bank of India currently provides a specific overdraft facility over and above Ways & Means Advance in terms of their Scheme effective from 1st April, 2003.

(b) States have used Reserve Bank of India facility as and when they have liquidity requirement over and above Ways & Means Advance limits.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Clothes at Concessional Rate to Families Living Below Poverty Line

645. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide cloth at concessional rates to the families living below poverty line;

(b) whether any scheme has been formulated in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Government has not formulated any such scheme in this regard.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Fluoride Mitigation Centre

646. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to kindly refer to reply given to USQ No. 267 on 22.7.2003 regarding Fluoride Mitigation Centre and state the outcome of the Internal Meeting held on 7th August 2003 to assess the feasibility of Fluoride Mitigation Centre in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): No internal meeting to assess the feasibility of Fluoride Mitigation Centre in Gujarat was held in the Department

on 7th August 2003 but was rescheduled on 29th August 2003. The outcome of the internal meeting on the subject was already indicated in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1093 on 9.12.2003 that it was decided to examine the techno-economic viability of various options for setting up the Fluoride Mitigation Centre.

[*Translation*]

Irregularities in LIC, Gorakhpur

647. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons given loan by Life Insurance Corporation of India, Gorakhpur division under M-1 scheme during 1992-94 and the purposes for which loan was given to them;

(b) the details of reconciliation account in this regard;

(c) whether gross irregularities have been detected in reconciliation of outstanding amount;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Foreign Direct Investment

648. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the annual Foreign Direct Investment Climate Survey was recently carried out by Confederation of Indian Industry and the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details of States which were gradually losing their attractiveness for foreign investment as per survey;

(c) the reasons given in survey for the same;

(d) the corrective measures suggested in survey for the same; and

(e) the response of the Union Government on the survey with the action if any taken by the Government on the basis of survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The World Bank report on "India Investment Climate Assessment 2004" in comparing 12 States, has identified Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Kerala as having a lower investment climate rating. According to the survey, functioning of the product and factor markets (including markets for labour, land and capital); sources of non-pecuniary intra-and inter-industry externalities (i.e. spillovers); the quality of public goods (such as law and order, government regulation) and physical and social infrastructure are the key determinants of investment climate.

(d) The report has suggested two interrelated sets of regulatory and institutional reforms in order to improve investment climate. The first comprises a set of regulatory reforms, including reducing entry and exit barriers to manufacturing industries, addressing impediments to the smooth functioning of labour, land, and product markets, and streamlining the regulation of business startups, bankruptcy procedures, and industrial and trade routines. The second reform set would address physical infrastructure bottlenecks and weaknesses in financial and other business services.

(e) The Government is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for investments in the region by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy, procedures and institutions. Government has set up a National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council (NMCC) which, inter-alia, will provide a forum for policy dialogue and evolve strategies for manufacturing sector as a whole as well as individual industries for enhancing competitiveness.

[Translation]

Production of Cotton

649. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian industry is losing its credibility in the world market in respect of cotton;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has decided to take positive steps for promoting the production of high quality cotton and its export at an international competitive price;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the restrictions imposed on the fund meant for the development of industry under the upgradation fund for textiles has been removed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) and (b) No. The Indian Industry is not losing its credibility in the world market in respect of raw cotton. During the previous cotton season 2003-04, India has exported 13.25 lakh bales of raw cotton. For the current cotton year 2004-05, export of raw cotton is projected at 12 lakh bales. Further, India is a leading exporter of cotton yarn.

(c) and (d) The Government of India had already launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) in February 2000 in the course of 9th Five Year Plan, with the objective of improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton and reduction in cost of cultivation, in order to provide abundant supply of good quality cotton at competitive prices to the textile industry and a remunerative return to the farmer. The TMC scheme has been continued during the 10th Five Year Plan i.e. upto 2006-07.

(e) and (f) Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFs) is a dynamic scheme and relaxation of norms are made in the scheme on a continuing basis based on the feedback from the Industry. Some of the major relaxations made during the recent past by the Government having special bearing on cotton textile industry are as under:

(i) The Minimum Economic Size (MES) for existing spinning units under cotton ring spinning system has been reduced to 8000 spindles from 12000 spindles. MES for new spinning units has been reduced to 12000 spindles from 25000 spindles.

- (ii) Existing knitting, garmenting and power loom units are also permitted to set up new spinning units with minimum 8000 spindles for captive yarn requirement as backward integration yarns.
- (iii) Minimum width stipulation for all type of looms under TUFs has been waived off.
- (iv) Downstream Value Addition Stipulation for new spinning mills as well as expansion of existing spinning mills under the scheme has been done away with.
- (v) Small scale powerloom units have been provided with an additional option of credit linked capital subsidy of 20% of the cost of machinery admissible under the scheme upto a cost of Rs. 60 lakh in eligible machinery.
- (vi) The stipulation that prior approval of Ministry of Textiles should be obtained before release of interest reimbursement on wind energy plants installed under the scheme has been done away with.
- (vii) The TUF scheme has been extended upto 31st March, 2007.

Black Money

650. SHRI SITARAM SINGH:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total amount of black money in the country;
- (b) whether Central Bureau of Investigation have recently made an assessment in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details of the estimate made by the Central Bureau of Investigation regarding black money, counterfeit currency, evasion of excise duty and bank fraud;
- (d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no exact estimate of the amount of black money in the

country. However, at the instance of the Government, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) had attempted an estimate of the black money in circulation in the country in the year 1983-84 and had estimated the black money generated in the year 1983-84 between Rs. 31,584/- crore to Rs. 36,786/- crore.

(b) and (c) CBI has not made any assessment/estimate regarding the amount of Black Money in the country.

(d) and (e) Not applicable in view of (b) and (c) above.

[English]

Fiscal Offences

651. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has been actively considering to set up intelligence agencies for gathering information relating to improprieties, money laundering hawala and other fiscal offences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have failed to check fiscal offences in the country; and

(d) if so, to what extent the setting up of intelligence agencies is going to check such crimes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) With a view to strengthen collection and sharing of financial intelligence through an effective national, regional and global network to combat money laundering and related crimes, the Government of India has accorded sanction for setting up of a Financial Intelligence Unit, India (FIU-IND), as a multi-disciplinary unit headed by an officer of the rank of Joint Secretary designated as Director, FIU-IND, and assisted by a trained technical group of financial sector experts, analysts and I.T. Specialists.

(c) and (d) Checking of economic offences is an on-going exercise. In this process, the FIU-IND would be the central national agency responsible for receiving processing, analyzing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions and it is expected that it will be an effective agency to curb money laundering and related crimes.

Economic Growth

652. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the pace of economic growth in the country is far below the satisfactory level;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the reasons for low economic growth; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the economic growth during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) India has registered real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 8.2 percent in 2003-04 and 7.4 percent in the first quarter of 2004-05. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Mid-Term Review of Annual Policy Statement for the year 2004-05 (October 26, 2004) has placed the growth in 2004-05 in the range of 6.0 to 6.5 percent. The expectation of lower growth in 2004-05 compared to the previous year is mainly on account of deficient rainfall and higher oil prices. Even then, India is likely to continue as one of the fastest growing economies of the world. However, Government is conscious of the need for realising higher growth rates to address the problems of poverty and unemployment.

(c) In June 2004, the Government announced a comprehensive policy aimed at increasing the flow of agricultural credit by 30 percent in 2004-05 and doubling the flow of credit in three years. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act has been operationalised from July 5, 2004. The Budget for 2004-05 presented to the Parliament on July 8, 2004 proposed a number of measures to promote growth. These measures, *inter alia*, include higher allocations for the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, revival of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, additional provision of Rs. 10,000 crore of gross budgetary support to the Annual Plan and proposal to launch a scheme for repair, renovation and restoration of all water bodies linked to agriculture. Other proposals relate to setting up of an Investment Commission, National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, raising of foreign direct investment (FDI) limits in certain sectors and removing the inadequacies in infrastructural facilities through a mix of policy and fiscal measures.

Sixth Pay Commission

653. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to constitute Sixth Pay Commission for the benefit of Central Government employees considering that the revision of pay is long due;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) With 100 per cent neutralization of the increase in the cost of living through two additional instalments of dearness allowance every year and merger of dearness allowance equal to 50 per cent of pay with basic pay, the real income of Central Government employees is protected.

Expert Group on Subsidies

654. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has appointed an expert group to prepare a road map for better targeting of subsidies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the recommendations received on subsidies from this expert group;

(c) whether this expert group has recommend for scrapping subsidies on kerosene; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) In pursuance of the announcement made in the Budget for 2004-05 presented to Parliament on July 8, 2004, the Government has asked the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) to prepare a blueprint for targeting the subsidies at the poor and the needy. The NIPFP is expected to submit its full report shortly.

Development of Wasteland**Statement**

655. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has implemented the wasteland development programme in the country;

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

(c) the district-wise number of farmers covered and benefited under this Scheme as on date, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed the wasteland development scheme during the last two years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) for treatment of wasteland/degraded lands. The States covered under this programme are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal & West Bengal. Details of projects sanctioned State-wise are shown in the Statement enclosed.

(c) The people including farmers living in and around the project area in the district of the State are benefited under this Programme by way of getting employment opportunities, soil & moisture conservation, increase in food production/fodder/water table and per unit production.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Government has reviewed the wasteland development programme during the last two years. With the result, the new Hariyali Guidelines has come into effect from 1.4.2003.

Integrated Wastelands Development Programme

Sl.No.	State	Total Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58
2.	Bihar	20
3.	Chhattisgarh	28
4.	Goa	2
5.	Gujarat	47
6.	Haryana	15
7.	Himachal Pradesh	34
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	12
9.	Jharkhand	14
10.	Karnataka	42
11.	Kerala	6
12.	Maharashtra	39
13.	Madhya Pradesh	69
14.	Orissa	46
15.	Punjab	8
16.	Rajasthan	47
17.	Tamil Nadu	45
18.	Uttar Pradesh	67
19.	Uttaranchal	24
20.	West Bengal	7
Total		630
North-Eastern		
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20
2.	Assam	74
3.	Manipur	19
4.	Meghalaya	14
5.	Mizoram	22

1	2	3
6.	Nagaland	34
7.	Sikkim	12
8.	Tripura	4
	Total	199
	Grand Total	829

Initial Public Offerings

656. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Initial Public Offers by companies through book building process are discriminatory to retail investors who have to bid 100 per cent amount at the time of applying as against qualified Institutional buyers who do not put any money;

(b) whether QIBs significantly revise their bids downwards of sometimes cancel them altogether as the IPO approaches closure;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring them on par by fixing some margin money and proportionate allotment; and

(d) if so, the decision in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines do not mandate collection of margin from investors. The guidelines provide that the margin, if any, collected from categories other than Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) shall be uniform for each such category. As per the guidelines, QIBs are not permitted to withdraw the bids after closure of bidding period, whereas other non QIB investors can withdraw their bids any time before allotment.

(b) to (d) The matter has received the attention of SEBI for taking necessary action.

Shares of Companies

657. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of listed companies whose shares are still in physical form with the share holders and are not being traded;

(b) the reasons for not getting the shares of these companies in electronic form;

(c) action taken against such defaulting companies;

(d) by what time the share of these companies would be dematerialised;

(e) whether addresses of regarding of offices and share transfer offices are not given immediately and correctly; and

(f) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) has informed that so far, 4029 listed companies (as per the information provided by the companies at the time of joining the depository) have joined NSDL for providing facility to their shareholders for dematerialisation of shares.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that as per provisions of Section 8 of the Depositories Act, 1996 every person has been option to receive security certificate or hold securities with depository. Therefore, share holders have the option to hold the securities in physical or demat form.

Further, SEBI vide circular dated August 03, 2001 advised all the stock exchanges to ensure that the companies listed on their exchanges establish connectivity with both the depositories by September 30, 2001, to facilitate compulsory trading in rolling segment mode from December 31, 2001. Companies which established connectivity with both the depositories before September 30, 2001 were shifted to normal rolling segment with effect from December 31, 2001. The trading in the companies which had not established connectivity before September 30, 2001 was put in trade for trade segment and settlement has been taking place in these securities in physical mode.

SEBI has been notifying the names of the companies on quarterly basis which have established connectivity with both the depositories and therefore eligible for trading in normal rolling segment. Apart from the above, for the benefit of small investors, stock exchanges also provide

a window for physical trading in the securities which are in normal rolling segment. Past experience shows that 99% of trading takes place in demat form only.

(b) Apart from the reasons cited in the answer to part (a), the company has to fulfill the eligibility criteria for admission into depository. The common criteria to admit the securities into the depository for companies were decided, jointly, by NSDL and Central Depository Services Ltd. As per this common criteria, the companies which are fulfilling the following requirements are eligible to admit into the depository:

- Companies should have Rs. 1 crore as net worth and
- The net worth erosion, if any, if not more than 50%.

Further, the companies, which do not meet the aforesaid criteria can also be admitted provided there is trading in the shares of these companies for at least 50 days during the preceding twelve months.

(c) The trading in the securities which have not established connectivity with both the depositories is in trade for trade segment instead of normal rolling segment.

(d) The shares of those companies will be dematerialized once they fulfill the eligibility criteria laid down by the depositories.

(e) and (f) The details of addresses of companies and/or their Registrar and Transfer Agents (as per the information provided by the companies), where the documents relating to dematerialisation requests are to be sent by the Depository Participants (DP) in respect of the companies who have joined NSDL, are provided to the DPs by way of circulars. This information is also available on the website of NSDL. Any changes in these addresses as communicated by the companies are also updated.

[Translation]

Corruption in Tax Collection Machinery

658. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tax collection has not been in commensurate with expectation due to corruption rampant in the tax collection machinery;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for improvement in the system; and

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The direct and indirect taxes collections have been commensurate with the expectations of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A number of legislative and administrative steps have been taken to augment collection of both direct and indirect taxes, including strategy for recovery of arrears, strengthening of the Vigilance Directorates to deal with corruption more effectively, appropriate action such as suspension, initiation of disciplinary proceedings against officials involved in corruption, identification of sensitive posts so as to avoid posting of officers of doubtful integrity to such posts, etc.

(d) The buoyancy in direct and indirect tax collections is attributable to the steps taken by the Government to augment collections.

Rate of Recovery of Tax

659. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tax recovery rate in India is more than that of other Asian countries;

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

(c) the names of those Asian countries having less tax rate than that of India and of those having more tax rate;

(d) whether the difference in tax rate adversely affects the foreign trade of India;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The direct tax rates in other Asian countries are almost comparable to the tax rates in India.

(c) The Asian country having more corporate tax rate than India is Pakistan and Asian countries having more individual income tax rates than India are Japan, China, Indonesia, Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, and Sri Lanka. The Asian countries having less corporate tax rate than India are Japan, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore and Sri Lanka while the Asian countries having less individual income tax rate than India are Malaysia and Singapore.

(d) The difference in direct tax rates between India and most other Asian countries is not so substantial as to adversely affect the foreign trade of India. Also India has entered into Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements with most of the Asian countries with a view to prevent double taxation of income and promote bilateral trade and investment.

(e) So far as direct taxes are concerned, in view of reply to part (d) above, the question does not arise.

So far as Indirect taxes are concerned, with regard to part (a) to (e), India has different tax rates for different commodities and the data of commodity-wise tax rate of other countries are not maintained by this Ministry. The effort involved in collection of information in this regard will not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

[English]

Tax Concessions and Incentives to Rayalseema

660. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to extend tax concession and incentives to promote rapid development and industrialization of backward regions of Rayalseema and Telengana on lines similar to what is given to the North-Eastern Region in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) As regards indirect taxes, this Ministry is against proliferation of area bases exemptions, as they lead to shrinkage of tax base which adversely affect buoyancy in revenue collection.

So far as direct taxes are concerned, no proposal has been received for extending the Income-tax concessions and incentives to promote industrialization of Rayalseema and Telengana regions.

[Translation]

Monitoring of Officers with Innumerable Assets

661. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of senior officers working in the departments under his Ministry have been nabbed by the Police/vigilance for taking bribe and possessing disproportionate assets during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the cases standing against them; and

(c) the steps taken to tone up the vigilance units in this ministry and departments to keep vigilant eye on the corrupt officials in their departments including their attached and subordinate offices?

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

[English]

Increase in Budgetary Demand

662. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has exceeded the limit of Rs. 10,000 crores by extending the budgetary demands to Rs. 12,000 crore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas from which the Union Government is likely to meet this additional Rs. 2000 crores budgetary allocation;

(d) whether this step of the Government is likely to increase fiscal deficit;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to minimize the fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Changes in allocations in the Budget Estimates are presented to Parliament in the Revised Estimates for the financial year. Impact of additional expenditure, if any, on the fiscal deficit is also known in the Revised Estimates taking into account the changes in receipt. Government stands committed to containing the fiscal deficit.

[Translation]

Professional Tax

663. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the State Governments propose to levy Professional Tax in their respective States;

(b) if so, whether the needs of taxpayers shall be taken into after leaving tax;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to direct State Governments to tackle problems of professional tax payers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As States do not require approval of Government of India, no such proposal has been received.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Loopholes in Revenue Collection

664. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is taking any steps to plug loopholes in revenue collection through stamps duty; and

(b) if so, broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Vide Finance Act, 2004, Section 2(26) has been inserted in the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. Through this amendment, definition of stamp has been inserted in the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 in such a way that the State Governments have been empowered to collect stamp duty through alternative modes of payment other than stamp/stamp paper.

[Translation]

Constitution of National Tax Tribunal

665. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of taxes both direct and indirect outstanding as also the tax collected till date;

(b) the target date fixed by the Union Government to recover outstanding amount;

(c) whether the Government have decided to constitute 'National Tax Tribunal' to tackle the situation arising due to several long pending tax disputes in the courts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total amount of taxes, both direct and indirect outstanding as on 30th September, 2004 and the amount realized upto 30th September, 2004 is given below:

	Rs. In crores	
	Amount Outstanding	Amount realized
Direct Taxes	81,399.00	3462.00
Indirect Taxes	15,970.35	560.01

(b) As the outstanding amount is pending for decision before the various statutory authorities, no specific target date can be fixed for the recovery of arrears. Moreover, fresh tax demands are constantly being added to the outstanding arrears and a part of the arrears is being liquidated on a continuous basis. However, every effort is being made to recover the arrears expeditiously.

(c) and (d) The Government have decided to constitute the National Tax Tribunal and accordingly a notice for introduction of the National Tax Tribunal Bill in the current Winter Session of the Parliament has been given by Ministry of Law.

Revenue Loss

666. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the percentage of revenue loss has increased during first half of the Financial Year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the figures of actual revenue loss during first half of the said financial year;

(d) the main reason for increase in the said revenue loss; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government of India to compensate said revenue loss and the amount of increase in revenue loss of entire year as compared to last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of reply to part (a) above, do not arise.

[English]

Lotteries Functioning in States

657. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of lotteries functioning in various States including that of Private Agencies;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaint about these lotteries with regard to the registration tax, etc.; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Income Tax Target

668. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of income tax payee in the country at present;

(b) whether the Union Government proposes to amend the present criteria fixed for identification of income tax payers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether all the retired Central/State Government employees getting a minimum pension of Rs. 500 per month, car owners, etc. who are coming under 1/6 category have submitted their returns;

(e) if not, what action are being taken against those persons who have not submitted their returns;

(f) the measures taken by the Government to bring the people of the above mentioned areas under the ambit of income tax;

(g) whether it is also one of the reasons for the shortfall in the tax recovered from the income tax payees in comparison to the target fixed; and

(h) the total number of such cases alongwith the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Based on the data available from 108 Chief Commissioner Regions (or equivalent officers), the total number of Income Tax assesses in the entire country as on 31.3.2004 was 3.02 crores. State-wise details are not maintained.

(b) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Details in respect of separate categories of assessee prescribed under the one-by-six Scheme, as also retired Central and State Government employees or car owners are not maintained.

(e) Penalty of a sum of Rs. 5000/- is leviable under Section 271-F of the Income Tax Act, 1961 on account of failure to furnish Return of Income as required to be filed in terms of the provisions of Section 139(1) and proviso thereto.

(f) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to bring more and more people under the tax net. Several measures initiated for this purpose include:

- (i) Implementation of one-by-six Scheme.
- (ii) Compulsory quoting of Permanent Account Number (PAN) in certain high value transactions.
- (iii) Filing of Annual Information Return (AIR) under Section 285BA of Income Tax Act, in respect of certain financial transactions, as prescribed.
- (iv) Carrying out surveys and searches on a selective basis.
- (v) Extending the applicability of TDS provisions to cover various financial activities.
- (vi) Efforts to educate the taxpayers by holding camps in different areas.
- (vii) Publicity and awareness campaigns through print and electronic media.

Apart from the above, a comprehensive computerization programme has been undertaken to bring all the 516 Income Tax offices throughout the country under an All India Computerized Network. A Tax Information Network (TIN) has also been set up in order to act as a tax-related information base.

(g) Such a study has not been undertaken. However, there can be several reasons for shortfall in taxes recovered in comparison to the targets fixed. Some of the reasons may be that the assessee are not traceable or demand is covered by stay granted by either an Income Tax authority or the jurisdictional ITAT/High Court or Supreme Court. In case of Notified Assessee, recovery

is possible only with the approval of the Special Courts. Some cases could be pending before the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction where recovery is not possible in view of the provisions of Section 22 of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(h) Such details are not centrally maintained. However, recovery is being monitored at the highest levels by setting up Tax Recovery Cells in various Chief Commissioner Regions.

Capital Support to RRB

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

(a) whether Government has assured that capital support will be provided to the Regional Rural Banks;

(b) whether NABARD has submitted a proposal to the Government to provide capital support to the extent of accumulated loss and share capital to each RRB;

(c) if so, whether Government have examined the proposal and sanctioned and released fund for revamping RRBs;

(d) whether the Government has requested RBI to submit an "approach paper" for revamping of RRBs for facing the challenge of revised agriculture credit;

(e) if so, the facts in detail;

(f) the details of recommendations of Prof. Vyas Committee Report on the restructuring of RRBs;

(g) the steps taken by GOI for consolidation of RRBs after delinking from sponsor banks or any National Umbrella; and

(h) whether there is any Public Sector Bank having no scope for cross-subsidization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government has decided and informed sponsor banks that sponsor banks will be held squarely accountable for the performance of RRBs under its control. It has also been informed that RRBs that adopt a new governance standard and that abide by the prudential regulations will qualify for receiving funds from the Government for restructuring.

(b) to (e) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has submitted details of RRBs having accumulated losses and has proposed for re-capitalisation support. Government has asked RBI to evolve suitable criteria in consultation with NABARD for financial assistance to RRBs, assess its quantum and the manner in which the financial assistance should be provided for revitalisation of RRBs on a sustainable basis.

(f) to (h) Prof. Vyas Committee appointed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has suggested consolidation of all Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) of North East into one company and the consolidation of the remaining RRBs at state level. Proposed structure of RRBs will be different from that envisaged in the RRBs Act 1976. As this calls for several amendments, the Committee recommended that RRBs Act 1976 may be repealed and replaced by a new Act, with suitable provisions for functional autonomy to the restructured RRBs and professionalisation of management and Board of Directors. However, discussions on restructuring RRBs are inconclusive at this stage.

[Translation]

Retirement Age

670. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering the proposal of lowering the retirement age of Government employees;

(b) if so, the stage at which the said proposal is being considered at present;

(c) the time by which the Government will announce its decision in this regard; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to generate more Central Government jobs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No such proposal is under consideration in Ministry of Finance.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such steps are necessary as jobs in Central Government are created on functional considerations and administrative exigencies.

[English]

Vanished Companies

671. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased

(a) whether the Government is going to take various steps to ensure adequate accountability of auditors, solicitors to a public issue of a vanishing company;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) Government is committed to ensuring accountability, under law, of all persons responsible for public issue of companies in pursuance of the above, the Government has also taken a comprehensive review of the Companies Act, 1956 with a view to revise it. Besides, Bills for amendment of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959 and the Company Secretaries Act, 1980 have also been introduced in the Parliament. These measures are expected to provide a more effective framework for accountability and responsibility of the corporates and their advisers, etc. towards investors.

Value Added Tax

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

(a) whether Value Added Tax is being implemented from 1st April, 2005 by various States/UTs;

(b) whether the Government have decided to place tea and coffee in the highest bracket for proposed VAT rates to be introduced from 1st April, 2004;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for higher rate of VAT on Tea/Coffee as this will effect common man; and

(d) whether the Government would reconsider the decision for keeping tea/coffee at the minimum rate of 4 percent and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was held on 18.6.2004, in which there was a broad consensus among the States to introduce the State level VAT w.e.f. 1st April, 2005.

(b) to (d) As per Entry 54, List II of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, tax on sale or purchase of goods is a State Subject. On the recommendations of the Chief Ministers' Conference held on 22nd June, 2000, an Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was constituted to deliberate on matters relating to implementation of VAT by the States/UTs, including rate of VAT on various commodities. This Committee, after detailed deliberations, has decided to place tea and coffee in the 12.5% VAT rate category.

Private Companies under Companies Act

673. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI RAJARAM PAL:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private companies are registered under the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received complaints against private companies for not following the provisions of Companies Act in their vested interest;

(c) if so, the number of private companies penalised so far during the last three years;

(d) the number of such cases pending with the Government as on date which are being enquired or against which enquiry is to be held; and

(e) whether the Government proposes to amend the Companies Act for taking stringent action against fake private companies registered under the Companies Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Complaints are received from time to time against companies, including those defined as private under the Companies Act. Prosecutions are launched if violations of the Companies Act, 1956 are detected. No distinction is maintained in pursuing prosecutions in respect of different categories of companies. The number

of prosecutions launched during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 are 9187, 8334 and 9154 respectively.

(e) The Government has decided to review and revamp the Companies Act, 1956 including the framework of penalties for defaulting companies.

Rural Development Programme

674. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to fix responsibility of District Projects Officers and Collectors for the effective implementation of Rural Development Programmes;

(b) whether vigilance officers are proposed to be posted in each district exclusively to monitor such work; and

(c) the steps taken to make the programme successful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) As per guidelines in force for various Schemes, the Project Directors of District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) and District Collectors are responsible for the effective implementation of Rural Development Programmes. The Ministry of Rural Development has also put in place a comprehensive system of Monitoring the programmes through various mechanism such as reviews by Hon'ble Union Ministers, Area Officers Scheme of the Ministry, Performance Review Committee, District Level Monitoring, National Level Monitors, Concurrent Evaluation and Impact Assessment Studies to make the programmes successful. The District Vigilance & Monitoring Committees under the Chairmanship of Members of Parliament have also been reconstituted for effective implementation of the programmes. Besides, the Gram Sabhas are also authorized to conduct Social Audit for ensuring transparency and effective implementation of Rural Development Programmes.

Resource Crunch in Maharashtra

675. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government is facing a resource crunch and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government of Maharashtra have sought assistance from the Union Government to overcome the financial stress; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have considered the proposal favourably?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) It is true that Maharashtra Government is running large revenue and fiscal deficit. Revenue Deficit and Fiscal Deficit in 2003-04 (RE) were Rs. 9037 crores and Rs. 19477 crores respectively. Despite such borrowings, plan outlay for 2003-04 (LE) was only Rs. 12415.19 crores.

(b) Yes, Government of Maharashtra has sought to borrow more.

(c) Government of India has not agreed to allow borrowing over and above debt ceiling fixed for the State under Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MTFRP).

[Translation]

Special Economic Package

676. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government with regard to provide them special economic package;

(b) if so, the action being taken in this regard;

(c) the basis on which States are provided special economic package; and

(d) the details of the fund allocated to various States during last five years as special economic package?

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

(b) and (c) States with special problems/circumstances are provided additional central assistance for their priority schemes, special central assistance, special plan assistance over and above the normal central assistance for state plan on exceptional basis on merits of each case.

(d) Statewise ACA for State's special priority schemes, special central assistance and special plan assistance during last five years is enclosed as statement.

Statement

ACA for State's special priority schemes, special central assistance and special plan assistance provided to States during last five years.

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02			2002-03			2003-04		
		ACA for priority Schemes	SCA	SPA	ACA for priority Schemes	SCA	SPA	ACA for priority Schemes	SCA	SPA	ACA for priority Schemes	SCA	SPA	ACA for priority Schemes	SCA	SPA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	291.96	—	—	518.80	—	—	482.31	—	—	478.58	—	—	1248.99	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	131.74	—	—	153.14	—	—	167.62	—	—	119.64	—	—	170.78	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	379.22	—	—	388.44	—	—	432.05	—	—	523.88	—	—	418.54	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	637.76	—	—	511.10	—	—	244.74	—	—	581.01	—	—	997.52	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	—	—	165.56	—	—	113.30	—	—	203.33	—	—	247.41	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	11.50	—	—	70.72	—	—	61.92	—	—	41.69	—	—	24.88	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	476.24	—	—	701.88	—	—	730.98	—	—	1512.54	—	—	1122.68	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8.	Haryana	38.01	—	—	118.04	—	—	43.92	—	—	158.05	—	—	328.68	0.00	0.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	324.16	—	69.00	225.28	—	150.00	222.03	38.00	200.00	234.84	200.00	233.00	350.57	0.00	433.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	—	—	194.12	—	—	53.73	—	—	145.12	—	—	254.41	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	745.60	850.00	300.00	233.40	—	400.00	297.51	200.00	500.00	448.44	421.00	300.00	603.54	750.00	400.00
12.	Karnataka	309.73	—	—	473.62	—	—	625.89	—	—	949.64	—	—	727.05	0.00	0.00
13.	Kerala	189.20	—	—	139.76	—	—	156.40	—	—	231.31	—	—	333.21	0.00	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	379.47	30.0	00.00	520.14	—	—	326.29	—	—	480.81	—	—	882.28	0.00	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	262.54	—	—	472.28	—	—	191.88	—	—	699.91	—	—	571.21	0.00	0.00
16.	Manipur	221.22	—	—	89.26	—	—	130.64	125.00	—	106.43	100.00	—	124.60	70.00	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	118.65	—	—	130.87	—	—	102.68	—	—	110.19	—	—	149.69	0.00	0.00
18.	Mizoram	100.02	—	—	85.65	—	—	144.17	—	—	94.59	48.42	—	140.71	99.66	0.00
19.	Nagaland	130.59	—	—	112.36	—	—	133.36	—	—	92.09	—	—	128.28	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	361.57	—	—	438.28	—	—	378.86	—	—	644.22	—	—	679.25	0.00	0.00
21.	Punjab	109.46	—	—	229.87	—	—	205.76	—	—	202.93	—	—	211.62	0.00	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	390.33	—	—	412.65	—	—	290.75	—	—	517.59	—	—	1122.82	0.00	0.00
23.	Sikkim	99.67	—	—	67.19	—	—	95.81	—	—	65.02	—	—	112.01	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamilnadu	200.35	—	—	314.12	—	—	217.56	—	—	385.95	—	—	564.89	0.00	0.00
25.	Tripura	214.74	—	—	249.14	—	—	238.05	—	—	141.67	—	—	150.18	0.00	0.00
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	—	—	439.98	—	—	293.14	—	300.00	572.31	—	250.00	492.56	0.00	250.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1405.88	—	—	1351.75	—	—	992.02	—	—	1246.42	—	—	1190.41	0.00	0.00
28.	West Bengal	367.20	—	—	419.65	—	—	343.96	—	—	450.40	—	—	478.65	0.00	0.00
Total		7916.81	880.00	369.00	9217.05	0.00	550.00	7717.33	363.00	1000.00	11438.60	769.42	783.00	13827.32	919.66	1083.00

ACA for Addl. Central Assistance.

SCA for Special Central Assistance.

SA for Special Plan Assistance.

Restriction on FDI in Insurance

677. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development of insurance sector is being affected on account of imposing restriction on the limit of foreign direct investment in insurance sector to 26 per cent;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) An insurance company continuously requires additional capital for growth of business. However, Indian promoters, at times, are not in a position to contribute additional capital proportionate to their share-holding in the insurance

companies. There is, therefore, demand for increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the insurance sector. In view of this, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has made an announcement in the Budget Speech 2004-05 for hike in the FDI from 26% to 49% in the insurance sector.

Corporatisation of Stock Exchange

678. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to corporatise Stock Exchanges;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend Securities Contract (Regulation) Act for this purpose;

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

(d) whether it is likely to affect the share market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To facilitate corporatisation and demutualisation of stock exchanges, Government has promulgated the Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 on October 12, 2004, thereby amending the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

(c) An imminent need for a structural reform of the stock exchanges in the country has arisen from the concerns that the present mutual organisational structure of stock exchanges has failed to address the conflict of interests inherent in such stock exchanges and is not conducive to good governance of stock exchanges.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee on the stock market scam and matters relating thereto, 2001 (JPC) had commented adversely on this situation and strongly recommended that the process of corporatisation and demutualisation of stock exchanges should be expedited to safeguard the interest of investors and to bring about greater transparency and efficiency of stock exchanges. The Government had assured both the Houses in the Action Taken Report that the required legislative changes to give effect to the said recommendation would be proposed.

Other reasons for proceeding with the corporatisation and demutualisation of stock exchanges in the country are:

- (i) To cope with competition, stock exchanges require funds. While member-owned stock exchanges have limitations in raising funds, publicly owned corporatised and demutualised exchanges can tap capital markets.
- (ii) Corporatised and demutualised exchanges can be more professional when compared to member-owned organisations.

The salient amendments made in Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, *inter alia*, include:

- (a) defining corporatisation and demutualisation;
- (b) limiting the organisational form of a stock exchange to a corporate entity;
- (c) specifying the procedure for corporatisation and demutualisation (including approval of scheme for corporatisation and demutualisation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India);
- (d) specifying the time limit within which the shares shall be disinvested by stock brokers under the scheme of corporatisation and demutualisation;
- (e) restricting the voting rights of brokers as shareholders, and brokers' participation on governing boards of stock exchanges so as to plug the loopholes inherent in governance of stock exchanges whose organisational form is mutual.

(d) and (e) Movements in the share markets are governed by various market forces, market sentiments and other factors. The impact of corporatisation and demutualisation of stock exchanges on the share markets cannot be isolated at this stage and it may not be possible to comment on the effect of the same.

[English]

Tax Reforms

679. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start tax reforms from 2005-2006;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such reforms are also part of the commitments made before the World Trade Organisation;

(e) if so, the details of the other commitments the Government has made before the WTO; and

(f) the time by which all WTO commitments will be fulfilled by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Tax reforms are an ongoing process. During the Budgetary Exercise for 2005-06, the Government shall consult all the interested segments such as industry, trade, administrative ministries, field formations, etc. before finalizing the budget proposals. The recommendations of the Task Force on implementation of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 and also the recommendations contained in the Report of the Advisory Group on Tax Policy and Tax administration for the Tenth Plan will be considered as a part of the budget exercise.

(d) to (f) The commitments of India under the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations embodied in the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation and the Information Technology Agreement, *inter alia*, cover bindings on imports of agricultural and non agricultural goods and the requirement to provide national treatment to imported goods under the tax regime. Beyond the implementation periods set out in these Agreements, there are no new commitments relating to the tax regime for India starting from 2005-06.

Revamping of RRBs

680. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any proposal for revitalizing/revamping the structure of Regional Rural Banks to enable them to play a critical role in the achievement of the development targets in rural credit in order to meet the pressures arising in the agricultural sector;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is also having a proposal to amalgamate the Regional Rural Banks to form National Rural Banks like NABARD having minimum 51% share of the Government of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps the Union Government has taken in this regard; and

(e) the time by which the National Rural Bank is likely to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Several options for restructuring of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been suggested. These include, inter-alia, de-linking of RRBs from Sponsor Banks, amalgamation of RRBs at regional or state level, merger with Sponsor Banks, making RRBs subsidiaries of the Sponsor Banks, their consolidation into a National Rural Bank etc. Creation of the National Rural Bank of India has not been favoured as it requires huge capitalisation and may lead to a monolithic institution with a vast area of operations and an unmanageable number of branches. Discussions in this regard have so far remained inconclusive. In the meantime, Government has decided that each sponsor bank will be held squarely accountable for the performance of RRBs under its control. RRBs that adopt a new governance standard and that abide by the prudential regulations will qualify for receiving funds from the Government for restructuring.

Construction of Cold Storages

681. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been launched to provide subsidy for construction and expansion of cold-storage and other developmental activities by NABARD;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy provided to each State especially to Madhya Pradesh under this scheme for the said purpose during the last three years;

(d) the amount utilized by each State provided to them under the said scheme and the amount left unutilized with the State; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure proper utilization of fund by the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The capital investment subsidy scheme for construction/expansion of cold storages and storages for

horticulture produce is being implemented by NABARD and National Co-operative Development Corporation (NCDC). Under the scheme creation of additional cold storage capacity of 12 lakh tonne and rehabilitation/renovation of 8 lakh tonne of sick cold storages for horticulture produce and new onion storages of the capacity of 4.5 lakh tonne have been targeted.

(c) to (e) The details of subsidy released in each State including Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is given as Statement. The above mentioned schemes are sanctioned to individuals/corporates/corporations through NABARD. Hence, State Governments are not involved in these schemes.

Statement

Subsidy released under Cold Storage subsidy scheme during last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	State	Subsidy sanctioned upto 31st March 2004	Subsidy released during			Total
			2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	
1.	Punjab	839.53	264.51	230.18	198.43	693.13
2.	Haryana	674.36	279.36	161.54	92.30	533.20
3.	Tamil Nadu	633.97	297.04	200.00	7.50	504.54
4.	Himachal Pradesh	12.02	0.00	12.02	0.00	12.02
5.	Uttar Pradesh	9636.28	1332.02	1531.82	3244.28	6108.12
6.	Uttaranchal	49.30	24.64	24.65	0.00	49.29
7.	Maharashtra	1093.42	173.65	595.00	214.50	983.15
8.	Goa	36.33	0.00	0.00	18.17	18.17
9.	Rajasthan	1000.44	353.90	233.02	33.65	620.57
10.	Karnataka	590.09	182.13	107.07	10.00	299.20
11.	Gujarat	1674.52	303.55	609.07	291.21	1203.83
12.	Orissa	214.04	59.22	41.50	25.00	125.72
13.	Madhya Pradesh	833.80	107.88	233.78	136.52	478.18
14.	Chhattisgarh	612.72	252.49	166.23	91.19	509.91
15.	West Bengal	330.04	0.00	58.50	131.70	190.20
16.	Andhra Pradesh	1210.69	631.70	171.99	35.17	838.86
17.	Assam	315.73	124.71	102.66	32.39	259.76
18.	Bihar	625.96	85.71	14.40	210.30	310.40
19.	Jharkhand	276.10	0.00	94.29	103.46	197.74
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	53.33	0.00	0.00	26.66	26.66
Total		20712.67	4472.52	4587.70	4902.43	13962.64

Vacant Post in RRBs

682. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in every State;

(b) whether a number of posts are lying vacant in each RRB;

(c) if so, the vacancy position as on date, RRB-wise;

(d) the backlog of vacancies in respect of SC/ST posts in RRBs on March 31, 2004; and

(e) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies and clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State-wise number of RRBs is as under

Name of State	No. of RRBs
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	16
Arunachal Pradesh	1
Assam	5
Bihar	16
Chhattisgarh	5
Gujarat	9
Haryana	4
Himachal Pradesh	2
Jammu and Kashmir	3
Jharkhand	6
Karnataka	13
Kerala	2
Madhya Pradesh	19
Maharashtra	10
Manipur	1
Meghalaya	1

1	2
Mizoram	1
Nagaland	1
Orissa	9
Punjab	5
Rajasthan	14
Tamil Nadu	3
Tripura	1
Uttar Pradesh	36
Uttaranchal	4
West Bengal	9
Total	196

(b) to (e) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Foreign Partner in Insurance Sector

683. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in terms of Section 6 of the Insurance Act, 1938, the foreign partner in the Indian Insurance Company is prevented from holding more than 26% of the paid up equity capital at any point of time;

(b) if so, whether the Government now proposed hike in the FDI from 26% to 49% by amending the Insurance Act, 1938;

(c) if so, whether this is being done on the pressure of external agencies like IMF, World Bank and MNCs;

(d) if not, the reasons for opening the insurance sector for private concerns;

(e) whether the Government have received representations from intellectual experts insurance field, knowledgeable persons in the economic activities and employees' union and Agents of LIC from every corner of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has made an announcement in the Budget Speech 2004-05 for hike in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from 26% to 49% in the insurance sector.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The insurance companies continuously require additional capital for growth of business. However, Indian promoters, at times, due to financial constraints are not in a position to contribute additional capital proportionate to their share-holding. There is, therefore, demand for increase in foreign equity in an insurance company.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Views expressed in these representations would be taken into consideration while amending legislation for increase in the FDI limit in insurance companies.

Financial Aid to the Subsidiaries of Indian Carpet Technological Institute, Bhadohi

684. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any financial aid has been provided by the Government to the subsidiaries of Indian Carpet Technological Institute, Bhadohi which is a distinct institute in itself throughout Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide an economic package to the carpet industries in the country including, Bhadohi, UP;

(d) if so, the details of the amount given by the Government for economic development of this industry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) and (b) There is no subsidiary of Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Bhadohi. However, two Design Development-cum-Common Facility Centers have been set up, one at Srinagar under the management of an autonomous society functioning under Administrative Control of State Government and another at Jaipur under the management of Rajasthan Carpet and Woollen Products Development Society, Jaipur with a view to develop and promote the carpet industry in these areas. The role of IICT is to provide technical guidance and support to these centres. The details of financial

assistance provided to these centers as grant-in-aid is as under:

(Rs. In lakhs)			
Sl.No.	Years	Funds released to Satellite Center, Srinagar	Funds released to Satellite Center, Jaipur
1.	2003-04	239.00	30.00
2.	2004-05	—	75.00

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Investment in Capital Markets

685. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prime Minister has recently directed to revive the capital market and wanted the people to invest in stock market rather than depositing in Banks;

(b) if so, whether National Securities Depository Limited and SEBI are following this policy for expanding the activities in stock market by reducing the unwarranted and unnecessary expense of the investor for holding of their portfolios; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VEGHELA): (a) to (c) The National Common Minimum Programme highlights the commitment of the Government to the orderly development and functioning of the capital markets that reflect the true fundamentals of the economy.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India and National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) continuously try and minimize the cost to investors of holding their portfolio. Although tariff charges of the Depositories is a commercial issue, SEBI had advised NSDL to review the fee and the charges' structure.

NSDL has been following the policy of reducing its charges with growth in volumes. The settlement fees of Rs. 15 per debit instruction announced in February 2002 was reduced to Rs. 10 per debit instruction w.e.f.

May 1, 2002 and to Rs. 8 per debit instruction w.e.f. January 1, 2004 thereby effecting a reduction of over 45 percent.

Similarly, the custody fee of Re. 0.75 per month (Rs. 9 per annum) for securities held under each International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) announced in February 2002 was reduced to Re. 0.50 per month (Rs. 6 per annum) per ISIN w.e.f. October 1, 2002 and further reduced to Re. 0.33 per month (Rs. 4 per annum) per ISIN w.e.f. April 1, 2004, thereby effecting a reduction of over 55 percent.

[*Translation*]

Growth Rate in Agriculture

686. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India in its annual report has stated that at least 4 percent growth rate in agriculture sector is required to be maintained;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government for maintaining this growth rate in agriculture sector; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to increase the present limit of loans being provided to farmers by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Annual Report for the year 2003-2004 has stated that in the context of achieving an overall growth rate of the economy of 7% and more, it is imperative that the agricultural growth rate is enhanced to around 4% per annum as the critical minimum.

(b) Some of the measures taken to increase institutional finance to agriculture include:

(i) Public sector banks under Special Agriculture Credit Plan (SACP) are required to fix self-set targets for achievement during the financial year showing an increase of about 20-25% over the disbursements in the previous year.

(ii) Since the inception of Kissan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme in 1998, 4.14 crores KCCs have been issued by banks up to March 31, 2004.

(iii) Several recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Flow of Credit to Agriculture and Related Activities set up by the RBI (Vyas Committee) are being implemented by banks including: waiver of margin/security norms for loans up to Rs. 50,000/- and in case of agri-clinics, up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs; inclusion of investment in securities agricultural loans under priority sector; review of NPA norms in agriculture lending etc.

(iv) The Government have also announced in June 2004 a package of measures to improve the flow of credit to agriculture with a view to doubling the agriculture credit in three years. The package includes relief measures for farmers affected by natural calamities; one time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers etc.

(c) No limit has been stipulated for providing loans to farmers.

[*English*]

Employment Guarantee Act

687. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:
SHRI RAMAKANT YADAV:
SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact Employment Guarantee Act and constitute "National Employment Guarantee Fund" to activate Employment Guarantee Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount proposed to be raised each year by the Government to effect the said scheme;

(d) the State-wise and year-wise amount likely to be spent by the Government; and

(e) the names of the States in which the said scheme is likely to be started in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (e) The proposal to enact a Central Legislation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which aims to enhance livelihood security to poor households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour, is under consideration of the Government.

Curb on Administrative Expenses

688. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to curb administrative expenditure;

(b) if so, the economy measures proposed to be adopted for this purpose;

(c) the directives issued to the State Government thereon; and

(d) the response of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) It is a Government's constant endeavour to contain non-plan, non-developmental expenditure. It is in this context that, along with other measures, instructions to avoid wasteful expenditure are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Department. These measures, inter-alia, include ban on the creation of posts, reduction in the number of sanctioned posts, restrictions on the filling up of vacant posts, reduction in office expenses, restrictions on purchase of vehicles, restrictions on foreign travel and on entertainment/hospitality expenses, restriction on STD/ISD facility, restriction on number of free calls on official residential telephones, electricity etc.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Twelfth Finance Commission

689. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Twelfth Finance Commission is of the view that States should get a higher share from the pool of divisible taxes;

(b) if so, whether the commission has recommended a marginal hike in the share of States from the levies imposed by the Union Government;

(c) if so, other recommendations made by the twelfth finance commission; and

(d) to what extent these are helpful to the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Do not arise. Twelfth Finance Commission has not submitted its recommendations as yet.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKAR SINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited, Lucknow, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-742/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:

Tenth Lok Sabha

- (1) Statement No. XXXVII Fifth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-743/2004]
- (2) Statement No. XLV Sixth Session, 1993
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-744/2004]
- (3) Statement No. XXXV Ninth Session, 1994
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-745/2004]
- (4) Statement No. XXXI Eleventh Session, 1994
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-746/2004]

Eleventh Lok Sabha

- (5) Statement No. XXX Third Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-747/2004]
- (6) Statement No. XXXII Fourth Session, 1997
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-748/2004]

Twelfth Lok Sabha

- (7) Statement No. XXXIII Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-749/2004]
- (8) Statement No. XXIX Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-750/2004]

Thirteenth Lok Sabha

- (9) Statement No. XXVIII Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-751/2004]
- (10) Statement No. XXVIII Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-752/2004]
- (11) Statement No. XXIII Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-753/2004]
- (12) Statement No. XXII Fifth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-754/2004]

- (13) Statement No. XXI Sixth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-755/2004]
- (14) Statement No. XIX Seventh Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-756/2004]
- (15) Statement No. XVI Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-757/2004]
- (16) Statement No. XIV Ninth session, 2002
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-758/2004]
- (17) Statement No. XI Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-759/2004]
- (18) Statement No. IX Eleventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-760/2004]
- (19) Statement No. VII Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-761/2004]
- (20) Statement No. IV Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-762/2004]
- (21) Statement No. III Fourteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-763/2004]
- Fourteenth Lok Sabha**
- (22) Statement No. I Second Session, 2004
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-764/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pratichi (India) Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pratichi (India) Trust, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-765/2004]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-766/2004]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-767/2004]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-768/2004]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-769/2004]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development Economics, Delhi School of Economics, Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-770/2004]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-771/2004]

- (8) A copy of the Export-Import Bank of India (Issue and Management of Bonds) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. LEG-59/46 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2004 under subsection (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.
- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-772/2004]

- (10) A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2004, together with Auditor's Report thereon:
- (i) Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ballia
- (ii) Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhagalpur

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-773/2004]

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-774/2004]

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| (iii) Bolangir Anchalik Gramya Bank, Bolangir
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-775/2004] | (xix) Pravatiya Gramin Bank, Chamba
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-791/2004] |
| (iv) Chhatrasal Gramin Bank, Orai
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-776/2004] | (xx) Prathama Bank, Muradabad
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-792/2004] |
| (v) Chikmagalur-Kodagu Grameena Bank, Chikmagalur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-777/2004] | (xxi) Rajgarh Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sehore
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-793/2004] |
| (vi) Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gonda
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-778/2004] | (xxii) Sabarkantha—Gandhinagar Gramin Bank, Himatnagar
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-794/2004] |
| (vii) Dhenkanal Gramya Bank, Dhenkanal
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-779/2004] | (xxiii) Sagar Gramin Bank, Kolkata
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-795/2004] |
| (viii) Golconda Grameena Bank, Hyderabad
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-780/2004] | (xxiv) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Azamgarh
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-796/2004] |
| (ix) Gomti Gramin Bank, Jaunpur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-781/2004] | (xxv) Shri Venkateswara Grameena Bank, Chittoor
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-797/2004] |
| (x) Gurgaon Grameen Bank, Gurgaon
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-782/2004] | (xxvi) Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Siwan
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-798/2004] |
| (xi) Himachal Gramin Bank, Mandi
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-783/2004] | (xxvii) Thane Gramin Bank, Thane
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-799/2004] |
| (xii) Jaipur Nagur Aanchalik Gramin Bank, Jaipur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-784/2004] | (xxviii) Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-800/2004] |
| (xiii) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-785/2004] | (xxix) Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Begusarai
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-801/2004] |
| (xiv) Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kanpur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-786/2004] | (xxx) Bhagirath Gramin Bank, Sitapur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-802/2004] |
| (xv) Kolar Gramin Bank, Kolar
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-787/2004] | (xxxi) Cauvery Grameena Bank, Mysore
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-803/2004] |
| (xvi) Koraput Panchabati Gramya Bank, Koraput
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-788/2004] | (xxxii) Cuttak Gramya Bank, Cuttak
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-804/2004] |
| (xvii) Malwa Gramin Bank, Sangrur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-789/2004] | (xxxiii) Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Khargone
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-805/2004] |
| (xviii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Nadia
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-790/2004] | |

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| (xxxiv) Pandyan Grama Bank, Virudhunagar
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-806/2004] | (xlix) Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank, Karimnagar
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-821/2004] |
| (xxxv) Aligarh Gramin Bank, Aligarh
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-807/2004] | (i) Sri Rama Grameena Bank, Nizamabad
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-822/2004] |
| (xxxvi) Bhandara Gramin Bank, Bhandara
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-808/2004] | (ii) Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Bharuch
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-823/2004] |
| (xxxvii) Dungarpur Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Dungarpur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-809/2004] | (iii) Akola Gramin Bank, Akola
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-824/2004] |
| (xxxviii) Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Faizabad
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-810/2004] | (liii) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-825/2004] |
| (xxxix) Farrukhabad Gramin Bank, Farrukhabad
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-811/2004] | (liv) Cachar Gramin Bank, Silchar
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-826/2004] |
| (xl) Kalahandi Anchalika Gramya Bank, Bhawanipatna
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-812/2004] | (lv) Champaran Kshetriya Bank, Motihari
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-827/2004] |
| (xli) Malaprabha Gramin Bank, Dharwad
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-813/2004] | (lvi) Durg Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank, Rajnandgaon
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-828/2004] |
| (xlii) Patliputra Gramin Bank, Patna
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-814/2004] | (lvii) Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Etawah
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-829/2004] |
| (xliii) Raebareli, Keshtriya Gramin Bank, Raebareli
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-815/2004] | (lviii) Etah Gramin Bank, Etah
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-830/2004] |
| (xliv) Pithoragarh Keshtriya Gramin Bank, Pithoragarh
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-816/2004] | (lix) Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank, Dehradun
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-831/2004] |
| (xlv) Rushikulya Gramin Bank, Berhampur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-817/2004] | (lx) Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank, Gurdaspur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-832/2004] |
| (xlvi) Sarayu Gramin Bank, Lakhimpur Kheri
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-818/2004] | (lxi) Hindon Gramin Bank, Ghaziabad.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-833/2004] |
| (xlvii) Shahjahanpur Keshtriya Gramin Bank, Shahjahanpur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-819/2004] | (lxii) Kakathiya Grameena Bank, Hanamkonda.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-834/2004] |
| (xlviii) Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaibasa
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-820/2004] | (lxiii) Kanakadurga Grameena Bank, Gudivada.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-835/2004] |

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| (lxiv) Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Purnia.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-836/2004] | (lxxx) Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Allahabad.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-852/2004] |
| (lxv) Kutch Gramin Bank, Kutch
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-837/2004] | (lxxxi) Ambala Kurishetra Gramin Bank, Ambala.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-853/2004] |
| (lxvi) Lakshmi Gaonlia Bank, Golaghat.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-838/2004] | (lxxxii) Baitarani Gramya Bank Mayurbhanj
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-854/2004] |
| (lxvii) Magadh Gramin Bank, Gaya
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-839/2004] | (lxxxiii) Balasore Gramya Bank, Balasore.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-855/2004] |
| (lxviii) Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Darbhanga
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-840/2004] | (lxxxiv) Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bilaspur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-856/2004] |
| (lxix) Mizoram Rural Bank, Mizoram
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-841/2004] | (lxxxv) Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Morena.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-857/2004] |
| (lxx) Netravati Grameena Bank, Mangalore
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-842/2004] | (lxxxvi) Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank, Chandrapur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-858/2004] |
| (lxxi) Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Palamau
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-843/2004] | (lxxxvii) Chitradurga Gramin Bank, Chitradurga.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-859/2004] |
| (lxxii) Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ranchi.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-844/2004] | (lxxxviii) Godavari Grameena Bank, Rajahmundry.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-860/2004] |
| (lxxiii) Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chapra.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-845/2004] | (lxxxix) Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ujjain.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-861/2004] |
| (lxxiv) Sree Anantha Grameena Bank, Anantapur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-846/2004] | (xc) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank, Jamnagar
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-862/2004] |
| (lxxv) Subansiri Goanlia Bank, North Lakhimpur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-847/2004] | (xci) Jhabua-Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Jhabua
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-863/2004] |
| (lxxvi) Surenderanagar Bhavnagar Gramina Bank, Surenderanagar.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-848/2004] | (xcii) Kalpatharu Grameena Bank, Tumkur
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-864/2004] |
| (lxxvii) Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-849/2004] | (xciii) Kashi Gramin Bank, Varanasi.
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-865/2004] |
| (lxxviii) Valfalar Grama Bank, Cuddalore
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-850/2004] | (xciv) Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, Diphu
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-866/2004] |
| (lxxix) Varda Grameena Bank, Kumta
[Placed in Library, <i>See</i> No. LT-851/2004] | |

- (xcv) Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Nainital
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-867/2004]
- (xcvi) North Malabar Gramin Bank, Kannur.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-868/2004]
- (xcvii) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-869/2004]
- (xcviii) Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhopal.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-870/2004]
- (xcix) Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank, Ratnagiri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-871/2004]
- (c) Sahyadri Gramin Bank, Shimoga
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-872/2004]
- (ci) South Malabar Gramin Bank, Malappuram.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-873/2004]
- (cii) Sravasthi Gramin Bank, Bahaich.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-874/2004]
- (ciii) Sri Saraswathi Grameena Bank, Adilabad.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-875/2004]
- (civ) Sriganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Sriganganagar.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-876/2004]
- (cv) Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Ambikapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-877/2004]
- (cvi) Tungabhadra Gramin Bank, Bellary
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-878/2004]
- (cvii) Yavatmal Gramin Bank, Yavatmal.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-879/2004]
- (cviii) Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank, Aurangabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-880/2004]
- (cix) Banaskantha Mehsana Gramin Bank, Patan
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-881/2004]
- (cx) Bardhaman Gramin Bank, Bardhaman
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-882/2004]
- (cxi) Basti Gramin Bank, Basti
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-883/2004]
- (cxii) Bijapur Grameena Bank, Bijapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-884/2004]
- (cxiii) Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Gopalganj.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-885/2004]
- (cxiv) Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Bhiwani
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-886/2004]
- (cxv) Hissar-Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Hissar
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-887/2004]
- (cxvi) Howrah Gramin Bank, Howrah
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-888/2004]
- (cxvii) Ka Bank Nongkyndong Ri Khasi Jaintia, Shillong.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-889/2004]
- (cxviii) Kisan Gramin Bank, Budaun
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-890/2004]
- (cxix) Krishna Grameena Bank, Gulbarga
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-891/2004]
- (cxx) Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank, Mainpuri
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-892/2004]
- (cxxi) Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Narsinghpur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-893/2004]
- (cxxii) Manjira Gramin Bank, Sangareddy
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-894/2004]
- (cxxiii) Mayurakshi Gramin Bank, Birbhum
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-895/2004]
- (cxxiv) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mungur.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-896/2004]

- (cxxv) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Murshidabad
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-897/2004]
- (cxxvi) Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-898/2004]
- (cxxvii) Pragjyotsh Ganolia Bank, Nalbari
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-899/2004]
- (cxxviii) Puri Gramya Bank, Pipili
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-900/2004]
- (cxxix) Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Raigarh
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-901/2004]
- (cxxx) Ratlam Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Mandsaur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-902/2004]
- (cxxxii) Rayalseema Grameena Bank, Cuddapah.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-903/2004]
- (cxxxiii) Sangameshwara Grameena Bank, Mahabubnagar.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-904/2004]
- (cxxxiii) Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank, Dumka
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-905/2004]
- (cxxxiv) Sharda Gramin Bank, Satna
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-906/2004]
- (cxxxv) Sri Visakha Grameena Bank, Srikakulam
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-907/2004]
- (cxxxvi) Tulsi Gramin Bank, Banda.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-908/2004]
- (cxxxvii) Vidur Gramin Bank, Bijnore
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-909/2004]
- (cxxxviii) Vindhya Vasini Gramin Bank, Mirzapur
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-910/2004]
- (cxxxix) Visheshvaraya Grameena Bank, Mandya.
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-911/2004]
- (cxl) Kapurthala-Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Kapurthala
[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-912/2004]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S.
ELANGO VAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1169 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2004 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 477 (E) dated the 25th July, 1991 under sub-section (2H) of section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-913/2004]

- (2) A copy of the Gas Cylinders Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 627 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 2004 under sub-section (8) of section 18 of the Explosives Act, 1884.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-914/2004]

- (3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT-915/2004]

12.01 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provision of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd December, 2004."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 2nd December, 2004.

12.01¹/₂ hrs.

**FINANCIAL COMMITTEES—A REVIEW
(2001-02), (2002-03) AND (2003-04)**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) of the "Financial Committees—A Review (2001-02), (2002-03) and (2003-04).

12.01³/₄ hrs.

**PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES—
*Summary of Work***

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the 'Parliamentary Committees (other than Financial and Departmentally related Standing Committees)—Summary of Work' (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the period from 1 June, 2002 to 31 May, 2003.

12.02 hrs.

**AMENDMENT TO THE DIRECTIONS BY THE
SPEAKER (FIFTH EDITION) UNDER THE
RULES OF PROCEDURE AND CONDUCT
OF BUSINESS IN LOK SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of new Direction 73 A (Hindi and English

versions) issued by the Speaker under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE
LEGISLATION**

Second Report

[Translation]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation on the Table.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

RULES COMMITTEE

Second Report

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, under sub-rule 1 of rule 331 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rules Committee.

12.23⁴/₄ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Second Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2004-2005) and Minutes relating thereto.

12.03 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT,
TOURISM AND CULTURE**

Eighty-third Report

[English]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Eighty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the 'Functioning of the Commission of Railway Safety'.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

National Cadet Corps

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, on behalf of my senior colleague, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 12 (1) (i) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, for a term of one year from the date of election, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

12.04 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 6th December, 2004, will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper;
2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills seeking to replace these Ordinances:
 - (a) The Securities Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004; and
 - (b) The Enforcement of Security Interest and Recovery of Debts Laws Ordinance, 2004;
3. Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2004-05 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill;
4. Consideration and passing of the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004, as passed by Rajya Sabha;
5. Consideration and passing of the Displaced Persons Claims and Other Laws (Repeal) Bill, 2004, after it has been passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Railways Department may approve and provide financial assistance for the construction of flyover over railway line passing through Rohi Road on main railway line for the development of newly created district Kaushambi, Uttar Pradesh under the National Uniform Development Scheme.

[English]

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

[Shrri Abdullakutty]

- (1) Matter relating to a legislation regulating professional colleges run by private management, with particular reference to admission and transparent fees structure.
- (2) Increasing incidents of violent attacks and intimidation of journalists in Kerala and measures required to protect the dignity and institution in the Southern State.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Top priority should be given to the construction of roads in the rural areas of the country. Pradhanmantri Gramin Sadak Yojana should be implemented, sufficient funds should be sanctioned to Madhya Pradesh from Central Road Fund and proposed roads should be constructed.
2. Special provisions should be made for the extension of telecom facilities to rural areas of the country, present rules should be amended and telephone facilities should be made available to all the persons enlisted in the waiting list. Madhya Pradesh is lagging behind all other regions as far as BSNL facilities are concerned. So essential arrangements should be made for the extension of telecom facilities.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): The following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (1) The largest section of working people in our country are engaged in unorganised sectors. They do not get proper wage, they have no proper houses to work, and they have no social security measures. Proper schemes should be formulated and implemented immediately for their welfare.
- (2) The largest section of the rural working people is agricultural workers. They are in great distress due to continuous fall in their working days. A comprehensive Central legislation is being demanded for the last four decades. This is

included in the National Common Minimum Programme and it should be brought, discussed and passed in this Session so as to have a comprehensive Central legislation for the agricultural workers.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Jaipur Airport should be given the status of international airport as a declaration to this effect was made by the hon. Finance Minister during the last Budget Session and it should be named after Maharaja Sawai Mansingh.
2. The railway line of the capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur should be electrified like Kota, Bharatpur and Sawai Madhopur so that the speed of the trains could be increased.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to take an early decision on the longstanding demand of ex-service men for same rank, same pension and implement it.
2. Need to do away with the requirement of 45 percent in high school for recruitment in General duty service in Indian army.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items should be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Dr. Sir Hari Singh Gaur University should be made a Central University.
2. Rahtgarh to Vidisha road of national highway No. 86 should be constructed on priority basis.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. 105 labourers worked as stone cutter in Bhurangia project of Mundih in West Jharia under Bharat Cooking Coal Limited in Jharkhand from 1976 to 1983. The labourers who have worked for so long should be given job as soon as possible and they should be regularised.

2. Indo-Asian Glass factory of Patratu division in Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand was closed down by the management on 6th September, 2004 without intimating the Ministry of Labour. As a result of it, thousand of labourers and employees are on the verge of starvation. It should be revived immediately.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. The need to supply gas cylinders to gas agencies on the basis of total number of consumers and ensure easy availability of gas cylinders to general public and to reduce the price of gas cylinders.
2. The need to check the prices of diesel and petrol to arrest inflation and price hike in the country.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to increase transmission capacity of Akashvani Kendra, Solapur in Maharashtra.
2. Need to implement an action plan for developing Vithal Rakumai Temple situated near Chandrabhaga river in Pandharpur in Solapur district of Maharashtra as a religious place and make all the facilities available to the pilgrims coming to that place from different parts of the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to respond?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, we have noted down the issues raised and we will see what can be done.

12.12 hrs.

[English]

MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd December, 2004."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 2nd December, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the skirmish and encounter is going on as far as the recent attack on CRPF camp in Sopor, Jammu and Kashmir is concerned. Several persons have been killed there. I would like that either the Minister of Home Affairs or any other Minister should give information about it in the House. A very serious incident has taken place there and several jawans have been killed. It would have been better if you ask the Home Minister to give a suo-moto statement about the encounter that is still going on there. Now such incidents are very frequently taking place there.

[English]

We would like the Home Minister to respond.

MR. SPEAKER: You have referred to an important issue and I am sure the Government has heard it.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I have also given notice in this regard that the terrorist activities have increased during the last 2-3 months.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Is this the way? He has referred to it. It appears that some incident has taken place today.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He can reply to it.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pathak, has the Speaker no role?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I have also given notice, I am drawing your attention.

[English]

Sir, I am not speaking anything. I am just drawing your attention. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. He has raised an issue because it is an important matter and suddenly it has risen today. The Ministers are here and they have heard it.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I have also given notice on the same subject. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is helping others but nobody is helping the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to state to the Government that a company of Dawoo Motors have closed down in Noida which is likely to render ten thousand person directly and 50 thousand persons indirectly jobless due to which the problem of unemployment has increased and the means of employment have been compressed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to demand from the Government to restart the Dawoo Motors company immediately so that the problem of unemployment could be removed through creation of employment besides resulting in the development of the State and the country.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Hon. Speaker Sir, Department of Employment and Training that come under Union Labour Ministry has put to great hardship about 16 thousand students in Tamil Nadu for a decade and more now without handing over to them National Trade Certificate even after their successful completion of such training programmes pursued in private industrial training institutes.

The very same Department of Employment and Training is sending question papers to various institutes

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

to hold exams to the students who have undergone training. All such candidates who have successfully completed such training programmes from Tamil Nadu and different States of India have not been provided with National Trade Certificates. Such private ITIs have got the question papers from the same Department.

When the Department of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour, is sending question papers to those private ITIs, I fail to understand why the very same department claims that they have not recognised those private institutes. The students who have studied there are put to great hardship as they could not get National Trade Certificate. This is totally unjustifiable.

These candidates are poor people hailing from rural areas who have completed either SSLC or Higher Secondary. Though State Government has provided them with provisional certificate, they are in a pitiable condition now without a National Trade Certificate. Without this they cannot get any job also. At a time when even IAS, IPS exams are conducted in regional languages like Tamil, these ITI students are still getting their question papers only in English or Hindi. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to conduct such exams in regional languages, it should be in Tamil in Tamil Nadu and let Tamil find place in National Trade Certificate exam.

MR. SPEAKER: There are 49 notices. All are hon. Members here. These are all important matters. If everyone wants to speak first, then how can I manage it? It is an important issue and I have allowed it to be raised.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Speaker, sir, a reduction of 300 MW power has been made from the allotted 498 MW power to Chhattisgarh from Central pool after the coming into power of UPA Government. Through you, I would like to say that the UPA Government has only shown its narrow mindedness and myopic approach by doing so, Chhattisgarh is facing this crisis of power due to the negligence and lack of farsighted approach of the Congress Government that was in power in Chhattisgarh previously. There is a lot of resentment in the rural areas. Through you, I am drawing the attention of the House towards it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pradip Gandhi, please do not make a speech. You please associate yourself with what she has said.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRADIP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also associate myself with it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your co-operation.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anybody saying 'Sir' will not get chance.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur): Sir, in Calicut airport a huge gathering was mobilised by a political party. Some of them climbed over the terminal building and brought down the National Flag. They threw away the National Flag and showed disrespect to it. Instead of the National Flag, they had put their own party flag there. ... (Interruptions) This had happened when a controversial Minister was to arrive at the airport. This gathering was organised by the Muslim League. It is very surprising that the airport authorities did not initiate any serious action against them so that the culprits could be booked under a Central legislation.

Sir, I would like to request the Ministry of Civil Aviation to look into this matter and take necessary action so that this kind of an incident does not take place again and the culprits are punished. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed it to be raised and the hon. Ministers are here and they have also heard it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I also have given a notice on this subject. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Since this was a serious incident, I had allowed it to be raised. The hon. Member has raised it very appropriately. Nobody can minimise the importance of this matter. I take it that the Government will take appropriate notice of this matter and see that appropriate redress is done.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Cabinet Minister is here. He can say so. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has nodded his head.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: From the Chair, I have given the direction.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Government should say it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair has given the direction. What more should be done?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, nodding the head is not proper. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given the direction. It is a direction from me.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, the Government should respond properly. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thomas, you may associate with him. Only names of Members who associate should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Thomas, you have not given notice. You can only associate with the Member.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very serious matter. You are diluting the importance of it by only taking the time of the House. All your names will be recorded to show your association in this important matter. What more do you want?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, we want the Government to respond to this serious matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already directed appropriate action to be taken according to law.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the nationalisation of all the Coal Companies took place on 1st May 1972 and 1st May, 1973. Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1972; Coal Mines Nationalisation (Amendment) Act; Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act, 1973 sought to compel Contractors to ease off the burden and imposed a ban on the sale of the produced Coal. However, Bharat Coking coal, a unit of Coal India Limited had engaged the contractors for producing Coal at its 13 plots. The said act of the management is against all the rules and the orders passed by the hon'ble Supreme Court. The management of Bharat Coking Coal Limited wants to start the production of coal with the help of armed forces at the plots that have been taken from the contractors with the nexus of the district administration. The situation prevailing in Kuiyan, Bagdogi, Basudevapur Colliery is so explosive that firing may take place there. There is acute resentment among the workers. On the one hand management is claiming that labour is surplus, on the other hand the mining of Coal is being done by the private owners through the contractors. Management intend to dash the dreams and vision of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi rendering 95 thousand workers of BCCL jobless due to which the workers and the people and not supporting it.

I would like to submit that order be immediately issued to cancel the allotment of plots made to those contractors who want to undertake the mining through force so that the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act and the order of the Supreme Court can be honoured and the workers could be saved from becoming victims of violence and the dreams of Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi could be cherished.

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an urgent need to construct a manned railway crossing between Trilochan-Baragaon and Kusawaon Pitch Marg (between Trilochan Mahadev Railway Station and Jalalpur Railway Station of Northern Railway along the canal bank). There is a frequent movement of trains between Trilochan Mahadev and Jalalpur Railway Station due to the double line here. Due to pitch road of the

said metal road, movement of traffic is very heavy and accidents take place frequently at the said unmanned railway crossing. Local people have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister number of times but nothing has been done in this regard. Hence, I humbly request the hon. Minister to issue order for converting this unmanned railway crossing into a manned railway crossing so that the accidents taking place there could be avoided ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name was at eighth place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is not at eighth but at ninth place. Now only the eight members have been called. I will just call you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why did you waste two minutes of the House? Now you may get upto speak. This is a clear example of unnecessary interruptions. Mr. Sushil Kumar Modi, you may speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, National Hydro Electric Power Corporation had taken up the task of road construction in Bihar. Their two engineers were kidnapped 15 days ago. Besides, Shri T. Mandal, General Manager has also not been traced yet and a ransom of 5 crore is being demanded for his release. The construction of road has come to standstill there. All the engineers have stopped working. All the engineers there are living under terror and fear and a fight is going on between Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji and Laluji. Laluji's government has conducted the raids on the residences of M.L.A.s supporting Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji. They did not find anything there. This kind of situation is prevailing there for 15 days. In Bihar Doctors and Engineers are scared of these kidnappings, they are terrified. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are going beyond your notice. I will look into it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: The entire work of development has come to a halt there and because of the fight between the two Ministers Shri T. Mandal has not been traced so far and it is feared that he may be murdered. They were told on phone that Shri T. Mandal will be murdered if Rs. 5 crores are not paid. I demand through you that the condition of law and order has worsened in Bihar. Doctors, Engineers, Businessmen and Contractors everybody is being kidnapped over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Modi, do not go beyond this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Village Development work has come to standstill over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Modi, it is over now, you have made your point.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): You please oppose this. You are the people responsible for this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Raghunath Jha ji, You please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, kidnappings are taking place over there. The residences of Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji's MLAs are being raided. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing further will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Modi, you are going beyond what you have stated in your notice. Please sit down. You are a senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called a lady Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is such an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking unnecessarily.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody else's except Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan's speech will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (Saharsa): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, our country is predominantly agricultural, 85% of our population is dependent on agriculture, particularly in Bihar from where I come. This is a thickly populated State. Maximum population is dependent on agriculture. The farmers are not getting fertilizers and their condition without fertilizers is very pitiable. On one hand the farmers are not getting fertilisers but on the other, fertilizers are being blackmarketed openly. Due to which in Purnea and Kaushika division, from where I come, the farmers are on the verge of committing suicide. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister that strict action should be taken against people involved in blackmarketing of fertilizers. Immediate

*Not recorded.

[Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan]

attention should be paid to this situation as our country is agriculture based and the condition of farmers all over the country is very poor.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have given a notice. I could have raised it as a matter of privilege. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Which one?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I have given a notice. I could have raised it as a matter of privilege. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you. I have not rejected your notice. Let me find out.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It is a question of privilege of a Member of Parliament. That is why I gave the notice. I do not rise quite often. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have risen without waiting for it. In only one place I have broken the queue. It is for Shrimati Shukla because she made a particular request to me. I have not denied it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You are the protector of my right. ...*(Interruptions)* I would just like to have my right through you. I am just drawing your attention to a question of right. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have more than drawn my notice.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, UPA Government has given an assurance to provide reservations to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the private sector. I demand that SCs and STs people should be provided 25% reservation in private sector. The Government should hold meeting with all the Industrialists and political parties to evolve consensus on this count and 25% reservation should be provided to

those people. The Government should make efforts in this direction and a decision should be taken in this matter within next six months.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, many villages in my parliamentary constituency have lost their existence due to continuous change in the course of rivers Ganga, Malan and Kho etc. Besides, thousands of acre of agricultural land has been destroyed because of which crores of farmers have become landless and homeless. Affected people have not been provided any compensation till now.

Through you, I demand from Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources that any permanent arrangements should be made immediately to check the soil erosion by the above rivers so that the people of this region could be saved from the extensive damage caused by these rivers. Many Schemes to stop the damage caused by these rivers have been submitted to Uttar Pradesh Drought Control and Relief Fund but these Schemes have not been implemented so far.

Therefore, hon'ble Minister is requested to provide compensation to the farmers affected by these rivers and to take effective measures in this regard so that local people could be saved from such damage.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh. You have to raise the matter only in which notice has been given. All the hon. members may kindly cooperate with me.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, Hindustan Times Group is a very important and respected publication group of India. It is a reliable group. Nobody has doubt about its reliability. In the recent past 362 regular and permanent employees have been removed from their services by this group which has led the families of these employees on the verge of starvation. Some of those employees are forced to commit suicide because of unemployment and poor condition. Their children have been expelled from the schools and they are living on the streets. Gross injustice is being done to those regular and permanent employees. Through you, I would like to request the Government to intervene in this matter immediately and take some measures to reinstate those 362 expelled employees of Hindustan Times Group.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Revised Catering Scheme letter No. 203/TG-III/600/5-2004 is threatening to render lakhs of those stall owners and vendors unemployed who have been providing catering services to the railway passengers for the last several decades because these catering licenses can work as long as they are in contract with the Railways. These small licenses include aged, displaced, persons belonging to the minorities and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, widows, freedom fighters and the educated unemployed youth. Hence the families of these persons have reached on the verge of starvation. It is also possible that these small licensees may also be forced to commit suicide on the lines of the farmers committing suicide due to starvation and loans because all the opportunities of finding employment have dried. The small licensees would be removed from all categories of stations without giving an opportunity to them and all the preparations to provide licenses to the big contractors and companies have been completed for small licensees cannot compete with these big contractors and companies in anyway. Ministry of Railways has made it mandatory to have in possession crores of rupees for sale and distribution and lakhs of rupees as tender money which would set the monopoly of selected companies and capitalists in Railways as is being done by IRCTC. Thereby companies make grand fortune by charging high rate from passengers and through advertisements and lease. These have been allotted things at the rate of one or two percent by IRTCC even though the allotment can not be made below the rate of 12 percent as per the norms of catering policy.

These small licensees are being rendered unemployed for the sake of establishing these big companies and capitalists while constitution provides that right to employment is our fundamental right. Hence, the said catering policy is against the policies and announcements of the United Progressive Alliance Government.

Through this august House, I would like to request the Government to withdraw the Revised Catering Policy 2004 with immediate effect and restore the old catering policy in order to save lakhs of small catering licensees from the starvation and being rendered unemployed.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to speak on the same subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harikewal Prasad and Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi have given identical notices. Their names will be recorded as associating with this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a long pending demand for the redressal of the grievances of the defence forces personnels. A Parliamentary Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Madan Lal Khurana during the regime of NDA Government. The Committee had also submitted its report but it is not being implemented. Through you, I would like to know as to why it is not being implemented. I would like to request you to give instructions to the Government to complement the recommendations of the report of the Madan Lal Khurana Committee and also explain the reasons for not implementing it so far.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the farmers is becoming worse in our agriculture dominated country. Agriculture has now become a loss making venture instead of a profitable profession. The farmers are forced to commit suicide after falling in trap of loans. Approximately 1800 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh alone during the last six months. Until the farmers get the appropriate price for their produce their condition is not going to improve. The Government has made a provision of providing MSP to provide them proper remunerative prices. The cost of various agriculture inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and diesel have risen by almost 40 percent in the last one year but the Government have increased the Minimum Support price in wheat by Rs. 10 and the gram by Rs. 25 only. It is like a drop in the ocean. The increase in the MSP is not justified in view of the 40 percent increase in the cost of agriculture inputs. Through you, I demand from the Government to increase the MSP of wheat by at least Rs. 40 and that of gram by at least Rs. 50 per quintle. This hike is very necessary for the farmers. The Agriculture crop insurance scheme implemented by NDA Government in the 20 districts, be extended throughout the country. The farmers can not get compensation as tehsil is taken as the unit of insurance.

Through you, I request the Government that instead of tehsil village or farmers be taken as a unit.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri N.N. Krishnadas—Absent. Shri Kharabela Swain.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, hon. Member Shri Mohan Singh and hon. Member from Ladakh Shri Thupstan Chhewang, had gathered near Teen Murti Bhawan. We wanted to proceed on foot to the Chinese Embassy just to hand over a memorandum because the Chinese Government has given death sentence to one of the Buddhist monks. So, just to absolve him of this death sentence, we wanted to hand over a memorandum, but the police had stopped us and one police official* told us that he would arrest all of us. We could see that all the people and vehicles were passing through that way. But we, Members of Parliament, have been stopped by the police. We said that we would only go and hand over this memorandum to the Chinese Ambassador. We said that we will come back if they do not accept it and we are not going to make a forcible entry into the Chinese Embassy. But the police behaved with us as if we are in China.

Sir, I agree that they may not agree with our contention. But India is a democratic country. In a democratic country, do we not have the right just to go and submit a memorandum? I was so startled yesterday that I could not believe my eyes to see that it is my own Government, my own police which is behaving in this manner with Members of Parliament.

So, I seek your protection. I wanted to move a Privilege Motion on this matter because the police prevented Members of Parliament from doing their duty.

One* DCP also came.

MR. SPEAKER: Names to be deleted.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: She said you go through the procedure, and the protocol says you will go to the Ministry of External Affairs to give a memorandum. Sir, I am not the Government. I am the people's representative. Should I go to the Ministry of External Affairs just to submit a memorandum? Ultimately they asked us to come. We went. We submitted the memorandum and we came back. Nothing happened. The heavens did not fall. But I was very surprised. Sir, through you, I am drawing the attention of the Government that we want a good relationship with China, but not in this way. Why is the Government so panicky about China? So, let the Members

*Not recorded.

of Parliament have the right to go. So I appeal to you to kindly instruct the Government that the police should not behave with us, the Members of Parliament, in this way because we do not want to break the law. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: This is the first time, just now you have brought it to my notice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I told you.

MR. SPEAKER: While I was passing the corridor, you said you wanted to mention one thing. Certainly I shall look into it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You could have brought it to my notice earlier.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are all working every minute.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, today a number of journalists and non-journalists have come to the capital of India because their main aim, their main objective is to have the Wage Board. The Wage Board was constituted seven years back. We know that all our speeches and deliberations go through these correspondents. At the same time, hundreds of correspondents are working in many newspaper establishments, the reality is that many of them are not fully employed. They are not permanent. They are not getting any wages. But the sympathetic thing is that it is after seven years that we are thinking about the Wage Board. Even if we start to constitute a Wage Board now, it will again take two or three years because they have to contact with the employers, employees and also their associations. So, I request that the hon. Minister has to take stern action to constitute the Wage Board now itself. Even after this, they have to wait for two or three years.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, this matter has been raised several times. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you expect? Was it your experience as a Speaker that as soon as a matter is raised, immediately decision will be taken?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No other hon. Member will disrupt please.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, my notice is also on the same issue. I had given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: You associate. Your name is recorded as having associated.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I have just one point.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no more point. Otherwise you wait for your turn in the list.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, they have sought an interim relief.

MR. SPEAKER: It is very appropriate. Shri P.C. Thomas associates and mentions about interim relief.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else is recorded except what I have said.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help. Mr. Tathagata Satpathy, I know you may have your problem. Discuss it outside the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Himachal Pradesh that is a State which has suffered gross neglect as far the expansion of the Railway Network is concerned during the last 57 years. A total of only 32 km. of broad gauge line has been laid down in these 57 years since independence there. A survey of railway line between Bhanupalli to Rampur in district Bilaspur was conducted several years ago. A corporation was constituted with a contribution of 50 percent by the Union Ministry of Railways and 25 percent each by the State Government of Himachal Pradesh and by some cement companies but later on the Ministry of Railways and Government of H.P. had decided to lay this railway line. Now the new Government have ordered for updating it by conducting

*Not recorded.

a fresh survey of this line. I request that the funds for laying new railway lines in Himachal Pradesh be released at one go as has been done in case of the expansion of railway network in Jammu and Kashmir so that the work on Bhanupalli-Rampur railway line could be started. Similarly the work on Unnq-Taiwana broadgauge railway line was started in 1980 and only 32 k.m. line has been completed so far. I request that this work be accelerated to promote tourism in Himachal Pradesh further. There is huge tourism potential there that can be exploited properly.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is under consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the entire country is in turmoil over the rising crude oil prices. The supply of oil has been stopped in my constituency Satna, Madhya Pradesh for the last one month. An oil depot was set up there with a cost of crores of rupees there but now that has been closed down. I had talked to the hon. Minister in this regard but he was of the view that the depot set up with a cost of crores of rupees has been closed owing to the demand for providing employment to the people on whose land that depot has been constructed. When the High Court Jabalpur stated in its order that they do not have nay right to seek employment, I passed on this information to the hon. Minister. Still the depot is lying closed.

I urge upon you to start the working of depot again and ensure the supply of oil from Indian Oil. Presently the consumers are paying 80 paise per litre more for oil and oil is supplied from as far as 250 kms after causing delay in supplies.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Petroleum. For the last few days, western Rajasthan especially Jodhpur which is my constituency has been facing grave shortage of gas cylinders. The consumers have to buy gas cylinders in black in this peak wedding season causing a lot of inconvenience.

Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to do away with this shortage of LPG cylinders so as to provide relief to the consumers.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan comprise 10 percent of the entire area of the country while it has only 1.6 percent of the water resources of the country. Rajasthan has very limited water resources. Rajasthan has been facing droughts in the last 4-5 years. Rajasthan get the water of Ravi-Beas rivers through Indira Gandhi Canal. One crore population of Rajasthan resides in desert areas comprising of Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. Water is the only lifeline for economic development of these districts which is received from canals. Canal is the only means of irrigation and drinking water. The Government of Rajasthan has spent Rs. 2600 crores on construction of Indira Gandhi canal but no water is being received from Punjab due to which the agricultural production in the desert areas of Rajasthan is going to be adversely affected. The farmers are agitated and are congregating in the form of 'Maha Panchayat' and are staging dharnas. Through you, I would like to request the Government that the Rajasthan be supplied water from Ravi-Beas immediately so that the crops may survive on which the lives of lakhs of people are dependent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say one more thing. Water is a national asset. I will conclude within 2-3 minutes, therefore, I need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you need my protection?

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it's a human necessity. Water is a national asset. The water of large rivers is to be shared among riparian States but by passing the Punjab Termination of Agreement Bill, 2004, the Government of Punjab has denied the share of water to Rajasthan. Rajasthan should get 8.6 MAF water immediately, but it is not getting its full share. Today Rajasthan is getting only 8.00 MAF water instead of its share of 8.6 MAF water. I would like to request the Government that the share of Rajasthan should be fixed by Ravi-Bias management and Rajasthan should get its full share of water. Rajasthan should get its full share of water as per the Agreement signed in 1964 and 1981.

MR. SPEAKER: It is good that you have raised this issue strongly.

[English]

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): The financial assistance provided to the widows through the 'National Family Benefit Scheme' is helpful to an extent to these women, particularly those belonging to the financially

backward sections. Though the amount of Rs. 10,000/- could not do much to mitigate their financial constraints, it definitely is a gesture of the society of its sympathy and concern for these hapless women.

But, unfortunately, the disbursement of this amount has not been done since 1998 in the State of Kerala. The State stands to get about Rs. 46 crore from the Centre on this account. Thousands of applications are pending with the authorities.

So, I urge upon the Government to release the amount due to Kerala since 1998 so that the money is disbursed to the poor widows at the earliest.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, probably you know that 20th Deaf Olympics are scheduled to be held at Melbourne, Australia from 5th to 16th January, 2005. Twelve athletes from West Bengal among many others from other States have been selected by the All India Sports Council of the Deaf, New Delhi to participate in the above meet.

But I am sorry to say that they have to bear to and fro air fare, boarding and lodging including the expenditure for attending the training camp whereas in Olympic Games all facilities and financial assistance are borne by the Government.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports through you, Sir, that such facilities should be extended to these young people especially as they are handicapped physically as well as financially.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope the matter will be looked into. Shri B.K. Handique, please look into it and request the hon. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports to look into it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I will look into it and get back to her.

MR. SPEAKER: Please help these sportspersons.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the All India PSUs, Student Organisation and other leftist organisations are very much concerned about the

Education Policy and feel that students are not getting equal opportunities. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Union Government that arrangement should be made to ensure that students of all sections must be given equal opportunities.

(English)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): The Government has announced the Minimum Support Price for various agricultural commodities taking into account the recommendations of the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission. But so far as paddy's Minimum Support Price is concerned, it has already been increased only by Rs. 10/-. Earlier the price was Rs. 550/- and now it has been increased to Rs. 560/-. When the prices of all the essential commodities are being raised and when the inflation is also above seven per cent, the Minimum Support Price is increased by only 1.2 per cent. So, it is neither remunerative nor supportive. Moreover, the FCI is supposed to procure in bulk, but in West Bengal it is quite inadequate. They are supposed to procure 10 to 12 lakh metric tonne paddy from the farmers.

Presently, the Minimum Support Price of the paddy is lower than the Minimum Support Price. So, I urge upon the Government that the FCI can go and procure the paddy direct from the farmers of West Bengal and other States also.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Haneraj G. Ahir has also given a similar notice. He can associate with it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Thank you, Sir. The hon. Minister of Finance is here.

Sir, till yesterday, 900 farmers and 200 weavers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh after the Congress Government came to power in the State on 14th May, 2004. This is a fact. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced a relief of Rs. 1,50,000 in each case. In addition to that, when the hon. Prime Minister went to Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Prime Minister has promised to give a sum of Rs. 50,000. So far, not a single pie has reached the affected families. Even the farmers are not getting remunerative price and they are not even getting the credit. The Chief Minister has recently written a letter to the Government of India regarding farmers growing cotton and paddy. But the Government's response is not there. It is high time that the attitude of the Government of India and the State Government should change.

The farmers are still committing suicides. On an average, ten farmers are committing suicide everyday. It is a shameful thing for all of us. The Government of India has not sent any team to know as to why they are committing suicides, why hundreds of people are doing this and what is the ground reality and what is the problem. There is no study done. In independent India farmers are committing suicides and the Government is not reacting. Even after announcing moratorium also, the private moneylenders are not giving loans. The farmers are not getting any credit from the cooperative banks or from the nationalised banks. This is the factual situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

Through you, I am urging upon the Government of India, with my folded hands to interact and react in the matter and safeguard the interests of the farmers and prevent them from committing suicides. Thank you.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): What have you done in your Government? *...(Interruptions)* You have not done anything.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, they are blaming the TDP Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You ignore it.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: We lost the power. You have to now prevent the suicides. The mandate is given to you. You should prevent the farmers from committing suicides. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhary to speak now. Nothing else will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, we are all familiar with the naxalite and insurgency problem in India. Till the other day West Bengal was alien to those violences. But now the naxalite violence has been increasing alarmingly in West Bengal State, in the border districts of Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia. A mine explosion has also taken place which took a toll of a number of *jawans*. What I would like to suggest to the Government and where I would like to draw the attention of the Government is that the State Government of West Bengal seems to be awfully inadequate to deal with the naxalite insurgency in West Bengal and, therefore, my request to the Government is

*Not recorded.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

to provide adequate financial and technological and logistical support to the State Government of West Bengal so that they can deal with this situation effectively. Thank you.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, there is a serious situation in five districts of West Bengal where potato is grown. Not a single tonne of NPA fertiliser has reached West Bengal. As a result of this, there are agitations and I am afraid there may be law and order problems in the State of West Bengal. West Bengal is the largest Potato-growing State. Unless fertiliser is supplied immediately and the State gets the NPK fertiliser from IFFCO it will be difficult; IFFCO has not started production of NPK and I was told that they were to start it from yesterday. If, within a day or two, NPK fertiliser is not supplied to the farmers of these five districts of West Bengal there will be a great crisis.

I urge upon the government to take urgent steps so that within a day or two IFFCO starts supplying NPK fertiliser to the State of West Bengal. Thank you.

SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY (Bellary): Thank you, Sir. I request, through you, the Union Government to sanction a bypass road in Bellary city. The National Highway No. 63 passes through Bellary. In the year 1998, there were 9,997 passenger car units passing through the city per day and today it has reached to a figure of 32,037—more than three hundred per cent. Also 16,000 MT of iron ore is transported everyday to Guntakal railhead. There is hectic iron ore activity going on in Bellary district. Many accidents are also taking place in the absence of a bypass road.

I request the Union Government, especially the Ministry of Surface Transport and Highways to survey and start taking up this bypass road very immediately. Thank you.

13.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: If you succeed, then I will put my constituency's claim.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you also want a by-pass there? I have already allowed 37 Members. How many more do you want me to allow?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Social Justice and

Empowerment to the problem of wakf estates all over the country. Now the Central Wakf Council, which looks after the wakf affairs all over the country, is defunct, non-functioning and dead. It is not yet reconstituted. After the implementation of the Wakf Act, 1995, many lacunae have been identified. So, that Act should also be amended according to the new experience.

I will urge upon the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to dissolve the defunct Central Wakf Council and reconstitute it immediately, and all the demands before the Council, which have been pending for the last six years, should be reconsidered. Then, the Wakf Division of this Ministry has been involved in lot of corrupt practices. So, its activities during the last six years should be inquired into. I would request that the pending appeals and demands should be reconsidered and the Act should also be amended according to the new situation.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI (Diamond Harbour): Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government to the rampant commercialisation of colleges, which is going on in our country. Many private engineering, medical and other professional colleges are coming up in a big way and there is no proper fee structure. So, rampant commercialisation is on. So, I think, the Central Government should initiate action to bring a legislation, which will empower the State Governments in turn so that they can curb this growing and disturbing trend of commercialisation. This is a very important matter. I hope, the Government will initiate some action.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): We support this issue and object to the commercialisation of education.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab's name should be recorded, though without notice. I am allowing this for your co-operation.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though it is being said that the present Government is concerned about the farmers and common people but it is acting against those two classes. To prove that what I am saying is true, I would like to give an important example.

Sir, the Ministry of Petroleum and the previous NDA Government took an important decision under which it

was decided to start blending ethanol with petrol, as it is being done in some countries. It was decided that during the first phase the percentage of blending should be 5% which was to be increased to 10% gradually in the second phase. Thus on one hand foreign exchange was being saved but on the other hand the sugarcane farmers and the common man were being benefited but the present UPA Government has made it optional due to which people of all sections are facing problem.

Sir, it seems to me that the present Government is favouring alcohol lobby, that is why it has made the blending of ethanol in petrol optional. This Government do not want that the condition of farmers should improve. If the blending of Ethanol is made optional then the work of blending will come to a standstill. In Brazil, the blending is done upto 20% whereas our Government had decided to have blending of Ethanol only upto 10% and that too in two phases. In the first phase the percentage of blending was to be done upto 5% which was to be increased to 10% in the second phase but the Minister of present Government is not paying any attention towards it.

Sir, I myself and my colleague Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan is aware of it and we both request the Government to give statement in this regard as to why blending of Ethanol has been made optional where as a result of it one hand the conditions of farmers would improve and on the other the sugarcane farmers will also be benefited.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should give statement in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The name of Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan will be associated with this matter.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 P.M.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

CENTRAL EXCISE TARIFF (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 17. Shri P. Chidambaram, the Minister of Finance, to move that the Bill further to amend the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to "move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I rise to support this Central Excise Tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2004. I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for bringing this Bill for amending the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985. This Bill was moved during the regime of the NDA Government, but due to the dissolution of Lok Sabha, it lapsed.

Sir, the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, contains two Schedules, namely, the First Schedule and the Second Schedule. The Schedules are, at present, based on 'six digit classification code' in line with the Harmonised System of Nomenclature.

Sir, this Bill seeks to put in place an eight-digit Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) for Central Excise. It is a welcome thing. At present, the Revenue Department has also developed an eight-digit classification code based on HSN for the purposes of excisable goods in India since February, 2003. On the same lines, by passing of this Bill, Excise Department would adopt the eight-digit HSN.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs had to give information to Lok Sabha about incident of Srinagar. When this issue was raised during Zero Hour it was said that the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs will give information about this.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is scheduled to be taken up at 1430 hours, not now.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: As a different system of eight-digit HSN followed by the Customs Department will be a cause for dispute particularly in the case of goods appearing in 'other category', it might be disadvantageous to a particular industry. Therefore, this will be definitely helpful to those. For instance, in the case of a good that is produced locally and is also being imported, the import of such goods should attract a countervailing duty equivalent to the Excise Duty paid by the manufacture of the same good in India. However, the two duties could be different, if Excise and Customs Departments classify the same good differently. The automobile industry had such a problem with the classification of station wagon.

A common system of classification, therefore, would take care of such problems and it will also be essential for duty drawback under VAT. It would also facilitate collection of very specific data and the electronic processing of the same.

As rightly stated by the Finance Minister, about 80,000 assesses contribute over Rs. 1 lakh crore to our exchequer. This is a manageable number. If we can sell tickets to over 80,000 people for a cricket match, why cannot we have a virtual stadium where 80,000 assesses can have sit slots? This is going to be possible by passing of this Bill.

This Bill is a welcome step. I congratulate the Finance Minister for bringing this Bill and I support this Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I am happy to note that a colleague sitting on the other side of the House also is fair enough to compliment our Finance Minister for bringing this Bill.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): It was originally our Bill.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I am expressing happiness over the gesture.

Basically, this Bill is mainly to bring some uniformity in the nomenclature of the items so that there would not any confusion or there would not be any increase in the work of assessing the duties and getting revenue both from Customs and Excise.

That the Finance Minister should get to these things immediately and repeal the Acts which are obsolete and irrelevant is very nice of him. But I only wanted to bring to the notice of the House the fact that there are so many of such Bills which are obsolete in various other Ministries also. I wish the other Ministers also take the clue from this and see that all those Bills which are obsolete and irrelevant in today's conditions are repealed and Bills are brought to meet the requirements of the present society.

In this context, I just want to bring to the notice of the Finance Minister the issue of agreements like GATT, WTO, etc. With a view to liberalise and globalise the economy, it is true that most of the developed countries want all the developing countries and the underdeveloped countries to accept the imports and to reduce the duties.

Primarily, every nation will be interested in their own interest. They cannot sacrifice the interests of their own nation. They do not have love for other nations. They see that free trade is accepted or import duty on their commodities is reduced and all those things, which are not in the interest of our nation. They think only in the interest of their nation. They wanted to market their own commodities which are surplus and which are manufactured in their country. In the name of globalisation and free trade, they wanted all these things rubbed on in our country. It is the duty of the Finance Minister to protect the nation's interest wherever it goes against our interest.

Under the GATT, developed countries wanted our country or the developing countries to reduce the import duty so that they can bring all their commodities into our country and to market them. They have their own advanced technology; they have their machinery. Their manufacturing cost is very high because their inputs are very high. What are the inputs? The inputs are only manpower. If with our advanced technology, the cost is about Rs. 20,000 per month, with the same technology there, the cost is about Rs. 4 lakh per month. That means, the manpower input that is put into the

manufacture of the machinery in America is 20 times more to the extent of manpower component compared to the manpower expenditure here. That means by importing a machinery, a thousand people are employed there, whereas 20,000 people are getting unemployed in our country. Developed countries are talking about free trade. When their own interest is affected, they coin a phrase called 'anti-dumping duty'. When the America found that the indiscriminate import of cars from Japan was going to affect their automobile industry, they brought the anti-dumping duty.

Today, in our country, till the other day, we have been exporting a lot of shrimps. This industry is flourishing in a big way in our country. Most of the coastal areas, particularly thousands of kilometres which are lying on the East side and on the West side, used to export thousands of crores worth of shrimps. Today, they have brought 'anti-dumping duty' on some pretext or the other. They are not taking our commodity as freely as we are taking their commodity. This also have to be taken into account. The Finance Minister need not be so considerate in accepting all those imports from such countries when they are curbing our exports.

They are discussing about import and export of commodities or raw material. The biggest strength of this country is human resources. Our wealth is human resources. We have very competent, very intelligent, well-trained and very skilled manpower in the world. Why should they restrict our people going to America? Why should they say that only one lakh people or only 60,000 people could come to America? When they want their commodities to come here freely with no duty, why should they not permit our manpower, our strength, our wealth and our commodity to go there freely? Why should there be restriction? Nobody is touching this aspect. While accepting free trade, liberalisation and globalisation, this must be applied to the manpower also. There should not be any restriction on giving Visa. I wish the Government, along with the Finance Minister, would take this point also into account in subsequent discussions. They may say that our strength is this, your strength is this; my source is this, your source is this; my wealth is this, and your wealth is this. When you want free trade, why do you restrict my people from going there? Let them also go there liberally. If they create any problem, you send them back. When our people are also helping to improve their economy, when they are taking the cream from our country, still why should there be any restriction? I want the Government to give a thought to this.

Our country is basically an agro-based country. Seventy-five per cent of our people live in rural areas. At least 60 percent of the people depend on agro economy, while only two or three per cent people of America are in the field of agriculture. They are giving lot of subsidy for producing agricultural commodities. they wanted to dump all their agricultural commodities here. Suppose, they dump indiscriminately all those agricultural products in this country, what will happen to our agriculturists? What happens to his product? In the meanwhile, if the Government permits import of grains or import of pulses or import of oilseeds, immediately, the rates of those products of our agriculturists will come down. He will then be put to a loss. This type of situation is leading to suicide cases. Why is the agriculturist committing suicide? It is because he is not getting the right price for his product. If he gets a right price for his product, he is contented with that. He is not enamoured that he should get crores of rupees or big buildings and so on. He never imagines about all those things. He only wants a right price for his product. This also must be taken into account while permitting import of all those products, which are being manufactured in the rural areas and small-scale industries.

The moment you accept the import of pulses, import of manufactured goods, they are all crippled. They will get unemployed. The money will go waste. It will become a non-performing asset in the banks. What is the wealth of a nation? The wealth of a nation is the sweat of the human beings transformed into commodities. Why are we calling a particular nation a rich nation? It is because of the buildings, science and technology, machinery, roads and so on. All these are considered as wealth. I can also manufacture. Our countrymen can also do all these things. We do not need to depend on those countries for import of all those commodities. What we need is the technology. We are ready to take the technology. If the R&D were to be in short supply here in this country, if my country and my Government were to give prominence to research and development and if that were to be given patronage very well, then development is very high in this country. I am prepared to take the technology. Why should my people be made idle? So, the Government must think in terms of discriminating between the import of technology and import of equipment or import of commodities. So, they must be very careful in deciding about the rate of customs duties on items that are going to affect our country. There is no level playing field. Take the example of China. If we were to permit the

[Shri K.S. Rao]

commodities to be imported indiscriminately from China, the entire economy of this country will come to a standstill. They are manufacturing certain items at cheap rates and even publicity is given at a cheap cost.

The other day, I had gone to Dubai. They wanted me to come and see one of their heavy machinery items. The driver of that heavy machinery was a post-graduate. He was not uneducated. He was not an ordinary graduate; he was not an engineering graduate. He was a post-graduate. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister is that we must concentrate on improving the skills of the people of this country. If we were to improve the skills of this country, automatically the cost of the goods that are manufactured, will come down. Then we can face the competition from the international market. But that is not being emphasized. So, I want the hon. Finance Minister to see that more allocation is made to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. We should change the type of education and bring the type of education, which caters to the present day needs of the country. So, it is not necessary that one must be a degree holder or a post-graduate engineer, doctor and all that. The moment a student comes out of tenth standard, he must have the confidence that he can live on his own. He need not be a parasite to the Government; he need not be a parasite to his parents. He need not have to beg from anybody. He should have the confidence that he will not be a drain to the Government resources. That confidence is not there in the students who are coming out of our technological institutes. So, I appreciate and admire the Government for bringing in this Bill and repealing all those Acts which are irrelevant and obsolete. I want the hon. Minister to concentrate on those items, which are going to affect this country and the people, by reducing this customs duty on various products particularly the products which are being manufactured by agriculturists and small-scale industries.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, I stand here to support the Central Excise tariff (Amendment) Bill, 2004 which has been moved by the hon. Finance Minister.

As has been rightly said, the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 contains two Schedules, and the Schedules are, at present, based on 6-digit classification code in line with the Harmonised System of Nomenclature. The Department of Revenue has now developed 8-digit classification code based on HSN for the purposes of classification of excisable goods in India. The DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade) and the DGCIS (Directorate-General of Commercial Intelligence and

Statistics) have already adopted 8-digit classification code for the purpose of import trade control policy and collection of statistics.

The Bill once enacted, will reduce the transaction costs and classification disputes and, in general, facilitate the trade. The Amendment Bill had been moved by the NDA Government earlier but it had lapsed with the dissolution of the 13th Lok Sabha. In effect, the Central Excise would adopt the classification system being used by the Customs Department which had moved to an 8 digit commodity classification system in February, 2003. As of now, the Central Excise Tariff Act follows a 6-digit classification. That is based on the HSN system of classification of goods. But that is different. The difference is well acknowledged. CEGAT had ruled in a case that classification under customs tariff could not be applied under the Central Excise Tariff Act.

Therefore, in practice, the manufacturers have to follow codes for Central excise different from one being followed by importers for countervailing duty, and exporters for duty drawbacks. This creates disputes, particularly, in the case of goods appearing in 'other' category. That might even disadvantage a particular industry.

For instance, take the case of a good that is produced locally and is also being imported. The import of such a good should attract countervailing duty equivalent to the excise duty paid on the manufacturer for manufacture of the same good in India. But the two duties could be different—excise and customs—classifying the same good differently. The automobile industry had such a problem with the classification of station wagons.

A common system of classification takes care of such problems and is essential for duty drawbacks under VAT. It would facilitate collection of very specific data and the electronic processing of the same. But before that, we would have to put in place a practical classification that does not blindly follow the HSN but addresses our peculiarities. This code in line with the existing 8-digit classification code for customs and Exim policy would go a long way in eliminating problems due to divergence of different classification and will facilitate the electronic data processing.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mahtab, one minute please. It is 2.30 pm. Now, let the Minister of Home Affairs make a statement. You may continue your speech after his statement is over.

14.30 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Fidayeen Attack on CRPF Camp at Sopore, District Baramulla, Jammu and Kashmir*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, today, that is on 3.12.2004 at 06.30 hours, two armed Kashmiri militant Fidayeens stormed into the Company Headquarters of 16 Battalion at Spore, District Baramulla (J&K). The Fidayeens hurled grenades and fired at the Sentry who was killed instantaneously. The Fidayeen also captured LMG of the killed Sentry and entered into the building. It is a three-story pucca building in which Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police is also housed.

In the continuous firing by the Fidayeen, five CRPF personnel including one Head Constable and three Constables, and one Barber were killed and one Constable was injured.

As per the available reports, both the Fidayeens are still alive and the operation to neutralise them is on. CRPF alongwith Rashtriya Rifles is conducting operations to eliminate the Fidayeens. The building has been cordoned off and senior officers are on the spot.

Further reports are awaited.

14.31 hrs.

**CENTRAL EXCISE TARIFF (AMENDMENT)
BILL—*contd.****[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, you can continue now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): The basic idea behind enactment of this Bill is that besides aligning the excise code with the code followed by the customs, it would also enable to collect more specific data on commodities of special significance.

The Bill proposes to incorporate standard units of measurement which were internationally accepted standard units. What I understand here is that a lot of cases, as has been said, are pending and from the report which we gathered relating to the Central excise cases in Supreme Court, is around 1777 cases have been pending, and in different High Courts 4879 cases are pending. These involve more than Rs. 4,000 crore. Similarly, arrears in Central excise, as on 31st March, 2004, were Rs. 12,583 crore, which is provisional of course, and when you compare it with last year's arrears, it was around Rs. 11,500 crore.

This enactment, of course, has a specific purpose only but we would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister, will it help in minimising the cases in different courts and also in expediting in recovery of the arrears that are due on the parties.

At the end I should express that I support this Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, it appears to be a very voluminous Bill and the main purpose is for a transition from six digits to eight digits to suit the convenience of international import rate. This Bill has been brought here for this purpose.

It was a long-pending demand of the Revenue Department for a change over to eight digits system. I fully agree with it but at the same time we will have to think aloud in matters of taxation, especially when we are on the verge of introduction of Value Added Tax system in the States. When it comes into force, the resources of the States will be very much reduced. So far as States are concerned, their main income is based on Sales Tax. For the State of Kerala, nearly more than 40 per cent of the revenue is from the Sales Tax. Even that is abolished and when it is shifted to VAT, definitely the States will be the losers in many ways. The exchequer will be more or less reduced and we may not be able even to pay the wages of the employees in the State.

That is the position. Of course, the Centre may come to the rescue of the States with certain new proposals or with some compensation. But compensation could not be a process for long. The Centre cannot finance the States in perpetuity. So, the main question is of change over in the tax system. Regarding certain items of excise duty which is now collected by the Centre, must be transferred to the States and the States also will definitely bring to the notice of the Government the items which can be left to the States for the change over from sales tax to VAT.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Now the Central Government is collecting service tax even for conducting tutorial colleges. Such items can be given to the States. There are many items which are coming under the purview of this Act but they could be shifted to the States. Otherwise, the financial condition of the States will be in peril, if I may say so. Therefore, this is high time for the Central Government to have a re-thinking for changing the entire tax structure, especially the Central Excise. Without a change, the States may not be able to pull on. I think our hon. Finance Minister is quite aware of this fact and he had several discussions with the Finance Ministers of respective States. I hope that they have also put in proposals before the Union Government for its consideration which of the items can be transferred to the States for tax collection. I am not arguing for an economically weak Centre. But at the same time, there are items on which, tax can be collected effectively by the States. Now those sources are not fully utilised by the Union Government. If it is transferred to State Governments, they will be able to collect tax much more effectively.

Moreover, certain policies are also detrimental to the States. For example, I will cite one instance of excise duty which is levied on palm oil in Kerala. Palm oil is imported from Malaysia and other countries and every time we impose import duty. The policy of the Central Government, now-a-days, is to reduce tariff or import duty on palm oil. The net result is that the coconut farmers in Kerala are put to hardship. The coconut producers of copra and coconut oil are facing crisis in the market because of this indiscriminate import of palm oil and also because import duty is reduced year by year. The net result is that lakhs of coconut growers in Kerala are put to hardship and some of them are even forced to commit suicide. The incidents of suicide by farmers is the order of the day because of this policy. So, it is high time that the Union Government re-consider the question of levying excise duty on certain items. I would like to mention that there are so many items which may be equally shared by the Union Government as well as by the State Government.

Now taxes on prepared food stuffs like beverages, vinegar, tobacco, tobacco substitutes are being collected by the Union Government. Some of these items can be transferred to State Governments for their existence in the event of sales tax being withdrawn.

Then, I will talk about articles of stone like plaster, cement, asbestos sheets, mica and similar materials. Now on cement, excise duty is levied. You will be surprised to

see that a sack of cement purchased from the market for a particular price would cost more by 10 per cent or 15 per cent the next day.

It would, thereby, reduce concessions. Even the schemes under MPLAD could not be implemented because of this policy of reduction in the cost of cement. This is the position in the State of Kerala.

I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister—because he is the most competent person to take a decision in this matter—to look into this aspect of sharing of taxes between the States and the Union Government. The Government, I am sure, will come before this House with a proposal for overhauling the present tariff and Excise Duty structure. All these aspects should be taken into consideration and a federal approach should be adopted in collection of taxes so that the very federal nature of our polity could be strengthened.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I am grateful to hon. Members from all sections of the House for offering their support to this Bill.

The purpose of this Bill is very limited. On the custom side we already have an eight-digit classification. It is, therefore, necessary that on the excise side also we have the same eight-digit classification. What we have found is that eight-digit classification helps both Trade and Revenue Department to identify a particular product and the heading under which it falls. Immediately the number of disputes comes down very sharply. There is transparency and there is reduction in the number of disputes. All these will facilitate trade. Sir, I am grateful to hon. Members for the support they have offered to this Bill and I am sure that this kind of support will be extended in the future also.

Sir, some comments were made about some other taxes. Although they do not directly concern this Bill, let me assure hon. Members that VAT is a law to replace sales tax. VAT has nothing to do with either Excise Duty or Customs Duty. All States have agreed that VAT will be introduced. Hon. Member, Shri Radhakrishnan would be happy to note that VAT movement is spearheaded by none less than the Finance Minister of West Bengal. Therefore, it is a matter on which there is broad consensus. I do not think we should say anything in this House which will break that consensus. All States have

agreed that VAT will be introduced. I have held several round of meetings with the Finance Ministers of States and we are confident that working together we can introduce VAT on the 1st of April, 2005. Please have no fears that introduction of VAT will bring about a revenue loss. The State of Haryana, one of our smaller States but obviously very progressive in taxation, introduced VAT two years ago. What is their experience? Their experience is that income through VAT has increased by twenty per cent over the previous year. If there is a loss, I have said, the Central Government will compensate that according to a formula. So, I do not think, we should make any statement which will come in the way. There is a broad consensus amongst all the States, including the State of Kerala, that VAT should be introduced on the 1st of April, 2005. I am glad that the hon. Member mentioned about it because it gave me an opportunity to appeal to all sides of the House to please co-operate on this issue. A major tax reform is being attempted. It had been attempted by the previous Government. They took the process a little forward and by that time the Government changed. I want to take it further and see the culmination of this process on the 1st of April, 2005. This Bill will help in improving our trade. Our exports are growing by 25 per cent. Shri Rao mentioned that other countries are not taking our products. But that is not correct.

Our exports are growing this year so far at 25 per cent in dollar terms. Therefore, this Bill will help trade and revenue and will also help in dispute resolution. I think it will also help in augmenting revenue.

Sir, I have some amendments to make which I will move later.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Insertion of new Sections

Clause 2

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Substitution of new Schedules for first Schedule and second Schedule

Clause 3

Amendments made:

Page 265,—

- (i) line 3, for "16%" substitute "8%"
- (ii) line 10, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (iii) line 11, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (iv) line 20, for "16%" substitute "8%"
- (v) line 21, for "16%" substitute "8%"
- (vi) line 24, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (vii) line 25, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (viii) line 32, for "16%" substitute "8%"
- (ix) line 34, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (x) line 38, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (xi) line 39, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (xii) line 40, for "Nil" substitute "8%" (1)

Page 369,—

after line 39, insert—

"10. In relation to the products of this Section, the process of drawing or redrawing a rod, wire or any other similar article, into wire shall amount to 'manufacture'." (2)

Page 514,—

- (i) line 11, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (ii) line 13, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (iii) line 14, for "Nil" substitute "8%"
- (iv) line 15, for "Nil" substitute "8%" (3)

Page 536, line 9,—

for "Nil"

Substitute "8%"

(4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

14.49 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (REPEAL) ORDINANCE
AND
PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (REPEAL) BILL, 2004
AND
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION)
AMENDMENT ORDINANCE
AND
UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES (PREVENTION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item Nos. 18 to 21 together. Just move it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, I am not moving. I would conclude in 2 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to speak later on also. That is why I am saying so.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I would conclude in two minutes. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not oppose

the Bill rather I would support it and on this occasion I would like to say that Samajwadi Party welcomes the ordinance brought by the Government to repeal POTA. Samajwadi Party has been openly opposing POTA. Even when people from this side were eager to bring in POTA, our opinion was ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): He can say this later on.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Why afterwards? I am not going to follow what he says.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Exceptions can be found everywhere.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: I am saying it in brief that Samajwadi Party opposed POTA even when Shri Santosh Gangwar and his friends were eager to bring it in as we had an experience of TADA. TADA was grossly misused. Therefore this possibility could not be ruled out that when enforced POTA could be misused against minorities or political opponents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our apprehension has proved right. The aim of POTA was to check terrorist activities going on in the country but it was used against tribal children and women in Jharkhand, in Gujarat it was used against minorities and in Uttar Pradesh it was used against political opponents. I would like to say that I approve the Bill and it is an informal proposal. We are with the Government in this regard. I move this motion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister will move the motion for consideration of the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan), Bihar: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has not read the motion then how can the hon. Minister respond. Please ask him to read out the resolution first.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since we tend to approve the bill, reading out the resolution is a formality, hon. Member might read it out.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, you have to move the Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Ordinance 2004 (No. 1 of 2004) promulgated by the President on 21 September, 2004."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister has to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN" (Begusarai): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House disapproves of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Ordinance, 2004 (No. 2 of 2004) promulgated by the President on 21 September, 2004."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Minister has to move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I beg to move*:

"That the Bill further to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Bill, 2004 has been brought in the House for consideration. Earlier, National Democratic Alliance Government brought Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance in 2002 and it got the approval of both the Houses and the law was enacted. When the NDA Government decided to withhold the enforcement of this law the country was completely in the grip of terrorism, so much so that even Parliament was attacked.

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

14.54 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN in the Chair]

However, when the NDA Government enforced it, the Congress Party which was then in Opposition and is now heading UPA Government opposed it vehemently. Today, when the Congress Party has come in power, they perhaps felt that the country still need this law but since they had opposed it then so to justify themselves they are making efforts to repeal the POTA and have brought Unlawful Activities Prevention Bill 2004.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though this law was essential as UNO in its proposal had also requested various countries to formulate such laws to tackle terrorist activities in their respective countries, however, the then Government of the country opposed it. Today the proposed Bill has been introduced in justification to that. This Bill has been brought through Ordinance for the partial modification in Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

Sir, the clause that the confession at statement before the police officer will not be treated as the basis is being added through amendment in the Original Act of 1967. Some amendments have also been made in the case of phone taping. Similarly, some amendments have also been introduced with regard to the power to keep under house arrest for one year and they have been given right to seeking bail.

Sir, the present condition of the country is not good. The entire nation is in the grip of terrorism whether it is the part of Jammu-Kashmir or the parts of North-Eastern States. Today, the terrorism is raising its head in the entire country, along the border of our neighbouring country. In this condition it is not pertinent to enact a new law after repealing the existing one. This act will encourage the terrorists and there will be rise in terrorist activities and it will be difficult to check terrorist activities.

Sir, today there is a need to fight terrorism. It is the question of national interest. There should be unanimity in the country on this issue. There should have been amendment in the existing law in the light of our previous experiences and the mistakes but it is not being repealed like that. Rather a new law is being formulated. It is not good. It means that the efforts of the previous government being made towards checking the terrorist activities will be failed. Now the terrorist organisations will again raise their head and will gradually increase their activities.

[Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan']

Sir, today, there is a need of an effective law to tackle terrorism in the country. There is a need to have a flawless law that can overcome the terror, however, there are many loopholes in our existing legislation and as a result of this people take benefit of it and are acquitted. No action can be taken against them. There are loopholes in our administrative system. Corruption and partiality is prevalent in our existing system. Taking benefit of such loopholes the terrorists are acquitted. So, I would like to request that stringent laws are required to tackle terrorists. The National Democratic Alliance Government had formulated a legislation like POTA which is going to be scrapped by the present Government. The proposed amendment that has been moved in the House by the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs will lead to a situation where terrorist organisations will start raising their head.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the present Government was in the opposition at that time so they had opposed this Act and it was their duty to oppose it. However, this law was brought in the interest of the nation. So the present Government should not make it their prestige issue. The government should withdraw the present Bill and allow POTA to continue. There is a need to take some precautions while restoring the old form of POTA. It should not be misused for political gain. As was mentioned during discussion by Shri Ramji Lal Suman that there are certain shortcomings in the old law which are required to be removed for tackling the problem of terrorism in the country. So, I would like to request that with certain partial amendments the government should once again move old POTA in the House without making it their prestige issue and considering the national interest as the supreme.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motions moved:

"That this House disapproves of the Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Ordinance, 2004 (No. 1 of 2004) promulgated by the President on 21st September, 2004."

"That the Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002, be taken into consideration."

"That this House disapproves of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Ordinance, 2004 (No. 2 of 2004) promulgated by the President on 21st September, 2004."

"That the Bill further to amend the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, be taken into consideration."

15.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I oppose the Bill because it was the Congress which had enacted TADA. It is not proper for the Congress Party to repeal POTA who itself had enacted TADA. Not one but two leaders of the Congress Party who became the Prime Minister were victim to terrorism. I respect Smt. Sonia Gandhi, however, she is known as the daughter-in-law of Gandhi family. Today atleast she should ponder over it that it is not proper to make haste in such matter. I do not understand what is compulsion that the POTA is required to be repealed. With your permission I would like to quote from Jagaran newspaper. It is reported in the newspaper that five members of Parliament advised her to repeal POTA. I respect the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. I have always regarded him as my elder brother and will continue to do so, however, I was sorry to read that news. It is mentioned there that the bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan is not so cordial that they may advise India on its internal matters. However, on Wednesday something like that happened. A delegation of Members of Parliament of Pakistan expressed its objections regarding POTA. It was surprising that the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Patil ji did not object to the such interference. I was sorry to read this news. There is no objection if the relation with Pakistan is improved. Atalji himself had gone to Pakistan by bus along with the Members of Parliament however, it is wrong if the Members of Parliament of Pakistan come here and give instructions to our Government and they follow it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, POTA was enacted because the security council of United Nations passed resolution 1373 and had advised all nations that they should enact laws to fight terrorism. Shri Gulam Nabi Azad ji is sitting here. We should not forget that it is the same security council of the United Nations because of which today Kashmir is the part of India. If the proposal regarding this had not been passed in United Nations, Kashmir would not have been the part of India hence I have objection to this that the proposal of the same security council of United Nations have not been taken seriously. It is being propagated that the purpose behind enacting POTA was political but it is not true. Elections were not going to be held when POTA was brought. An elected NDA Government under the leadership of Atalji was already in

place and in order to maintain law and order situation in the country the government was destroying terrorist camps. It was quite natural that the terrorist organisation would also react. Our Parliament was attacked and so the POTA was enacted. However, today POTA is being replaced that shows that there is certainly some vested political interest. Before election they had announced that if they come in power they would replace the Act. So instead of NDA Government they have vested political interest. It is propagated that POTA was against Muslims only, but it was not true. Was Vaiko Muslim, who was arrested under POTA. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI (Sivakasi): It was because of their relations with the Tamil Nadu State Government, Shri Vaiko was arrested. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Shri Vaiko was supporting the NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Why was he arrested? He was arrested because he was supporting NDA and they did not give him any support.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Let me complete my speech. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee did not interfere.

[Translation]

They had not supported Vaiko at that time as NDA Government had no political interest. We should not be misguided by the false information that is being spread. Today POTA legislation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Why did people of Tamil Nadu punish NDA?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I will talk about Tamil Nadu also. I have got enough details with me. Let me complete my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Lakshman Singh's speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: POTA has helped State governments a lot. Today state governments have arrested

*Not recorded.

many criminals under POTA. It is being falsely propagated that POTA is a 'draconian law'. When I was child I used to listen the story of Dracula which was a very big monster. POTA has been described as draconian law, however, in reply to a question Raghupati ji has stated that during the last two years only 573 persons have been arrested under the POTA. Out of the 100 crore population only 573 were detained and out of these 120 were in Jammu & Kashmir. If we look at the figures given by Raghupati ji in Rajya Sabha, we see that 71 in Maharashtra, 64 in Jharkhand, 48 in Delhi, 36 in Andhra Pradesh, 29 in U.P., 27 in Tamil Nadu, 4 in Sikkim, 2 in Himachal Pradesh and in this way only 573 people have been booked under POTA. ...*(Interruptions)* Some people have been booked in Gujarat also. How can we say that it is a draconian law.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): You did not mention Gujarat.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: People were booked in Gujarat also.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: How many?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: It is written in this. It was 172 in Gujarat. It is all right, what is there in this. These are just figures, your Minister has given these. The misconception doing round all over the country that a lot of injustice is taking place in the name of POTA which was not true. POTA was enacted to deal with the people who talked of dividing the country, who have flared up terrorism, and have given financial help to those who have brought illegal arms in the country and have created terror and those who killed many people in bomb blasts in Mumbai.

In the Bill presented today, you have given a sunset period of one year. What is that sunset period. We will know what is a sunset period only after your reply.

Review Committees would review into POTA cases. Who are the people on the review Committee, there is one person. On the review Committee who will review the POTA cases and only on his recommendation a person will be punished or will be let off. No case will be registered against that person and all the cases against that particular person will be dropped. I am not naming him, but he is an ex-Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry, which means that it is an ex-Secretary of Civil Aviation Ministry who is there on the POTA Review Committee and only he will decide whether POTA should be imposed

[Shri Lakshman Singh]

in the country or not. 60 thousand people in our country have died because of terrorism. Two Prime Ministers have been killed and ex-General also. People are dying even today, our soldiers, our men are being killed. It has been mentioned just now that today some soldiers have been killed in Sopore. Many were Muslims amongst those who died in Kashmir. It would be good if some educated members from the families of those 60 thousand people who died, and soldiers who are dying are kept in the Review Committee. He knows the pains of terrorism. They should be on the Review Committee. It makes sense if only somebody from the families of those who died in Mumbai blasts is kept on the Review Committee or otherwise it doesn't make any sense.

Some of our friends from DMK were saying something just now. *...(Interruptions)* Now, either they belong to Shri Vaiko's party or to the DMK Party. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Why do you unnecessarily change the Party's name?

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: It is all right, they must be from Vaiko's party. Shri Rajiv Gandhi was brutally assassinated. After assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Jain Commission was appointed. Even before the Jain Commission could give its report the elections were held and the Government was pulled down." It hurts me today. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): You are wrong.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: The Government was pulled down because of this Jain Commission. *...(Interruptions)* All right, I have got some facts. I am going to quote form the Jain Commission's Report. Sir, can I have your permission please? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, we went your protection.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: That word may be expunged. *...(Interruptions)* This may be expunged.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am just trying to establish my point. *...(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Lakshman Singh.

*...(Interruptions)***

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: But I am quoting from paragraph 19 of page 86 of the Jain Commission's Report. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can have your say afterwards. Let him complete.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: "Allegations were raised by Shri K. Ramamurthy and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that the DMK party had, on 21st May, 1991, fixed a meeting at Sriperumbudur to be addressed by Shri M. Karunanidhi and this meeting was cancelled under suspicious circumstances. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can have your say only when he finished. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any objectionable statement, it will be removed.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am quoting from the Jain Commission's Report. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

15.12 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is any objectionable statement, that will not be recorded.

*Not recorded.

15.12 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai went back to his seat)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I assure you that if there is any objectionable statement, that will not be recorded. Please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: It is a recorded statement.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am reading from paragraph 19 of page 86 of Jain Commission's Report. It was alleged in an article written by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What for are you replying? If there is any objectionable statement, that can be removed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: It is irrelevant.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I was saying that today the Congress party has taken the support of DAAK. What did the Congress party say about the same DMK in the Rajiv Gandhi murder case?

[English]

This is what I said. This statement is made by no less a person than Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer who is a Minister in the Government. This is a deposition given by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. He says, "I know the meeting ground at Sriperumbudur. That is near the bus stand. I have read reports in the Press, and it has been personally confirmed to me by the then TNCC President, that this ground had been booked by the DMK for a meeting on 21.5.1991 which was inexplicably cancelled at the last moment..."

"The meeting was to be held in the evening. The then TNCC President, Shri K. Ramamurthy publicly

stated that at a meeting on 21.5.1991 near the Apollo Hospital, Chennai, the son of the DMK leader..."

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, in what way is it connected to POTA? This is irrelevant. *...(Interruptions)* This is in no way connected. He is misleading the House by speaking irrelevant things. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Further he has said:

"The son of the DMK leader, Thiru M.K. Stalin, made a speech in which he urged the DMK cadres to remain behind doors that evening as some incident was likely to take place."

...(Interruptions)

Sir, what was that incident? It was that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated and today these people are sitting here with the support of the DMK. *...(Interruptions)* Now, they want to withdraw POTA. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: You belong to the party which supports the Jayalalithaa Government. *...(Interruptions)* She has arrested Shankaracharya, a Hindu leader. Why are you sitting here? *...(Interruptions)* You go to Tamil Nadu and talk to her. *...(Interruptions)* She has arrested a Hindu leader.

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: You were in Congress. At that time, you voted against POTA. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: This is all irrelevant. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: All right, I will not talk about it. Please sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is found objectionable, it would be removed from the record. If there is any objectionable matter, it would not find a place in the record. It would be expunged. Why do you worry?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, please do address the Chair. Please do not get disturbed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Sir, I am talking about something else. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, I have said that if there is something objectionable, I will remove it from the record. Now, that issue is over. You may please resume your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, whatever he has spoken is irrelevant. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: I am not talking about the DMK now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There can be no discussion on this any more. The matter is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to tell what Shri Prakash Singh ji, who held three important posts, he was DGP of Assam, DGP of Uttar Pradesh, DGP of Border Security Force, has written about POTA—

[English]

"One reason for removing POTA is, India has a tradition of foreign invasions from time to time. From the time of Alexander to the Pak intrusion in Kargil, the tradition must be kept up. The foreign mercenaries who are causing mayhem in J&K should not feel any let or hindrance in their marauding campaign. So, POTA should be removed."

Secondly, he says:

"Political considerations have always been more important than national. So, POTA should be removed."

I am not saying this. He is the Director-General of BSF.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): He is a former Director-General, just as you are a former Congress Member.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: All right, I stand corrected. He is a former Director-General of the BSF. He has served in Assam and in U.P.

Thirdly, he says:

"What does it matter if the Aksai Chin is lost or even if the Valley slips out of our hands? So, remove POTA."

Then, he says:

"Terrorists killed one of our ex-Prime Ministers and a former Army Chief. No less than 60,000 lives have been lost. How does it matter to the Government? Remove POTA."

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: "... So, why do you talk about terrorism? ...*(Interruptions)*

Then, he says:

"The human rights of terrorist must be safeguarded. The armed forces personnel serve to die only."

That is why, POTA should be removed.

Then he says:

"Bin Laden sharanam gachchamii! Masood Azhar sharanam gachchamii! Salahuddin sharanam gachchamii!"

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lakshman Singh, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Lastly, TADA was used in Gujarat by Shri Chimanbhai Patel. Against whom? He arrested 19,000 people who were connected with Amul Dairy movement.

[Translation]

The movement started by Sardar Patel has created an invaluable institution. Sardar Patel has been forgotten completely by the Congress Party. That Great man started the co-operative movement and when Shri Chaman Bhai Patel was Chief Minister of Congress, he detained him along with his 19,000 members under TADA. ...*(Interruptions)* In the end, I would like to request Shri Shivraj Patil ji to withdraw it. Implementation of this will lead to escalation in terrorism in the country. Shri Shivraj Patil ji, please keep this in mind that the one year sunset period given by you may not become the sunrise period of terrorism in the country.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate the Government for bringing this Bill, because it is a day of immense happiness for me and for all the civil liberties group who believe in basic human rights. Today I am surprised to listen to my friend. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: You are surprised but I am proud of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I am surprised because these very own friends of ours, when we use to sit there, were supporting us against POTA. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I never spoke against POTA. The records can be seen. Patil ji is. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I see a very different face of yours. Your seat has not changed. You still remain where you were, please tell us which is your true face. You supported us earlier in this House when we were opposing 'POTA'. You may refuse it. It will not affect anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, please address the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Yes, Sir. I am coming to him. I am just trying to highlight the two faces of the hon. Member. When they were on the other side what they were saying and what they are saying now. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: I think, these people are guilty. ...*(Interruptions)* The Members who has spoken on POTA for more than two house here—I am referring to Shri Vaiko has been arrested under the same Act.

[Translation]

He was arrested under the Act brought by them and the same situation is prevailing even today. These people could not do it even under their government. ...*(Interruptions)* I am very happy that this Government has brought this. What happened in Gujarat?

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: What happened?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: You would find it harsh. Not even one member from their Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Who had led the mobs in killing the minority people has he ever been arrested in POTA? Not only that the DSP has deposed before the Commission saying.

[Translation]

that a Minister called up then DSP of Bhawnagar and said that though five members of majority community had been killed but why not even a single one from minority community had been killed. Please give clarification. Not only that. I would tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): He is telling a lie. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: It is so difficult to listen.

[Translation]

Who was the victim, the people belonging to minority community were the first victims. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I am not yielding. They have to listen. They should have the patience to listen.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am addressing you. I am not telling them. The unfortunate part is that they do not have the patience to listen. That is unfortunate.

[Translation]

Such young innocent people have been arrested under POTA who have never participated in such activities, who were never a part of the violence and who have never killed anyone. People belonging to one party and its allied parties who led the mob, participated in arson and killed people have not been arrested under POTA. ...*(Interruptions)* I know you would not like to listen all this but you can see all the examples. You would know that POTA has been grossly misused in Gujarat. It is quite prevalent to make a case of links with ISI against anyone to arrest him. Many people were arrested in this way in the constituency of the then Deputy Prime Minister and present opposition leader Shri L.K. Advani and the constituencies of other members of the same party but persons from the same party who perpetrated violence were not arrested. People are not being spared even today. They are living in fear even today. These people can not seek help when released because if they consult a lawyer of Human Rights Commission then they would be harassed more. This is the situation in that state and minorities are being ill-treated over there whose future is not secure. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. All the facts are coming, one by one, before the Commission. Nobouy can say from that side no one would be looked under POTA. The situation in Gujarat is that anyone might be arrested under POTA. That person is not released on bail, family members can neither meet him nor give him food. No one is allowed to talk to him for 4-5 days. The family members of the person who is arrested run from pillar to post in distress. This is the situation in the State under their regime.

[English]

Let me just tell them. I am just telling you. No person who is in the minority group feels safe even now, in their regime.

[Translation]

The officers who have deposed before the commission have said so.

[English]

They took over possession of the control room during those days. I want to know why can they not be arrested under POTA by this government.

[Translation]

His ministers took over the control room and said that they would decide where to send the police and where not. This kind of things happened over there under this law. This law has been grossly misused in Gujarat.

I want to congratulate the Union Government that it has brought a second bill to repeal this law. Persons from Human Rights would visit Gujarat and they would support this new law. There would be a big meeting over there regarding this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, you may continue your speech later. It is now time of Private Members' Business.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Yes, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up Private Members' Business—introduction of Bills.

15.30 hrs.

[English]

(i) Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill*, 2004
(Amendment of Section 2, etc.)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.30¹/₄ hrs.

Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill*, 2004
(Insertion of new section 2A)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.2004.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.30¹/₂ hrs.

(iii) **National Commission for Senior Citizens Bill*, 2004**

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for Senior Citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduced a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for Senior Citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.30³/₄ hrs.

(iv) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill*, 2004**
(*Amendment of Article 298, etc.*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): 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.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.2004.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

(v) **Constitution (Amendment) Bill*, 2004**
(*Amendment of Article 103, etc.*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): 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 ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.31¹/₂ hrs.

(vi) **Cotton Growers (Welfare) Bill*, 2004**

[*English*]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

(vii) **Unemployment Allowance Bill*, 2004**

[*English*]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for

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unemployment allowance to all educated unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all educated unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.32¹/₂ hrs.

(viii) Chilli Growers (Welfare) Bill*, 2004

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of chilli growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of chilli growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrakant Khaire—not present.

Shri Yogi Aditya Nath—not present.

15.33 hrs.

**(ix) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill*, 2004
(Amendment of Section 55, etc.)**

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

(x) Rural Labour Welfare Fund Bill*, 2004

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a rural labour welfare fund for the welfare of the rural labour employed in the agriculture and other rural occupations and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a rural labour welfare fund for the welfare of the rural labour employed in the agriculture and other rural occupations and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

(xi) Drought Prone Areas Development Authority Bill*, 2004

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the formulation of special development plans and establishment of an autonomous authority to implement such plans in respect of the drought prone areas of the country and for matters connected therewith.

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the formulation of special development plans and establishment of an autonomous authority to implement such plans in respect of the drought prone areas of the country and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak—not present.

15.35¹/₂ hrs.

(xii) **Agricultural Workers (Employment, Conditions of Service and Welfare) Bill*, 2004**

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect the interest of agricultural workers and to provide for their welfare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to protect the interests of agricultural workers and to provide for their welfare."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

• 15.36 hrs.

(xiii) **Uniform Marriage and Divorce Bill*, 2004**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

a Bill to provide for uniform marriage and divorce law for all citizens of the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform marriage and divorce law for all citizens of the country."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.36¹/₂ hrs.

(xiv) **Government of Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Bill*, 2004**

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(xv) **Government of Union Territory of Lakshadweep Bill*, 2004**

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the

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creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union Territory of Lakshadweep and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the creation of a Legislative Assembly for the Union territory of Lakshadweep and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.37¹/₂ hrs.

(xvi) Electricity (Amendment) Bill*, 2004
(Amendment of section 3, etc.)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Electricity Act, 2003".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(xvii) Prevention of Social Disabilities Bill*, 2004

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent the imposition of

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social disabilities by a member or members of a community on a member or members of his or their own community; to provide for penalties for such an act or acts and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prevent the imposition of social disabilities by a member or members of a community on a member or members of his or their own community; to provide for penalties for such an act or acts and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

(xviii) High Court of Gujarat (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Surat) Bill*, 2004

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Gujarat at Surat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Gujarat at Surat."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.39½ hrs.

(xix) Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Amendment Bill*, 2004
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

(xx) Constitution Amendment Bill*, 2004
(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): 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]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.40½ hrs.

(xxi) Most Backward Classes (Proportional Representation in Services and Educational Institutions) Bill*, 2004

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for most forward classes in services and educational institutions under the State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation for most backward classes in services and educational institutions under the State".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

(xxii) Technology Bank of India Bill*, 2004

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Technology Bank to assist professionals engaged in research work in various disciplines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Technology Bank to assist professionals engaged in research work in various disciplines."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

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15.41½ hrs.

{xxiii} Women (Reservation in Service) Bill*, 2004*[English]*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in posts and appointments for women in services under the Central Government and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation in posts and appointments for women in services under the Central Government and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy—Not present.

Shri K. Manvendra Singh—Not present.

15.42 hrs.

**(xxiv) Income Tax (Amendment) Bill*, 2004
(Insertion of new section 4A)***[English]*

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY (Nandyal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Income Tax Act, 1961."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.**

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.42½ hrs.

(xxv) Fishermen (Insurance) Bill*, 2004*[English]*

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of fishermen and boats against any mishap and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for comprehensive and compulsory insurance of fishermen and boats against any mishap and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

(xxvi) Bar on Witchcraft Bill*, 2004*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to provide for ban on witchcraft in any form in the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for ban on witchcraft in any form in the country."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.44 hrs.

(xxvii) **Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill*, 2004**
(Amendment of section 3)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.45 hrs.

(xxviii) **Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill*, 2004**
(Amendment of sections 12 and 154)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Item No. 58—Shri K.C. Singh Baba—not present.

Item No. 59—Shri Sunil Khan—not present.

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Item Nos. 60 to 63—Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi—not present.

Item No. 64—Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak—not present.

15.45¹/₂ hrs.

(xxix) **Provision of Free Medical and Engineering Education to Meritorious Students Bill*, 2004**

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for free medical and engineering education to meritorious students who are economically weak and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free medical and engineering education to meritorious students who are economically weak and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce** the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

(xxx) **Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Vacancies in Posts and Services) Bill, 2004***

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies for the members of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in posts and services under the control of the Government of India or of a State Government and in all statutory authorities and autonomous bodies receiving money from the Government of India or of a State Government and for providing punishment for violation of reservation policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of vacancies for the members of

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**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in posts and services under the control of the Government of India or of a State Government and in all statutory authorities and autonomous bodies receiving money from the Government of India or of a State Government and for providing punishment for violation of reservation policy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce** the Bill.

15.47 hrs.

(xxxI) **Forest (Conservation) Amendment Bill*, 2004**
(*Insertion of new section 3C*)

[English]

SHRI S.P.V. REDDY (Nandyal): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.P.V. REDDY: I introduce the Bill.

15.47½ hrs.

(xxxii) **Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill*, 2004***
(*Substitution of new section for section 8, etc.*)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.2004.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

PREVENTION OF TERRORISM (REPEAL) BILL, 2004

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, allow me to say why I wish to withdraw this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak at this stage. You can only seek the leave of the House to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, POTA was enacted during the regime of the previous Government. In view of the promise made in the Common Minimum Programme of the present Government and in view of the Repeal Bill being brought to the House, I wish to withdraw this Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak on this when that Bill comes up for discussion.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I withdraw the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004
(*Insertion of new article 21B, etc.*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up next item No. 70—Bills for consideration and passing.

Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bakura): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Sir, social security encompasses a very wider area—employment, nutrition, health care, insurance, minimum wages, old age pension and social security for the disabled persons. Today, is the International Day for Disabled. We are today discussing the social security of the millions and millions of people of the world.

15.52 hrs.

[SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair*]

Sir, even after 58 years of Independence, today we are facing starvation deaths, malnutrition and unemployment. For more than a decade since economic reforms has started and the Government of India adopted the policy of globalisation and liberalisation in 1991, we have seen as to how the social security is being assaulted and being attacked in our country. One argument is that providing social security to the millions and millions of people of our country would be a burden on the economy of our country. Right to social security should be treated as a Fundamental Right.

Secretary-General of ILO in his Report to the International Labour Conference in Geneva, which was held in 1999, observed:

"These developments call for more and better social protection not less in a world of rising social exclusion, the argument for social protection remain as valid as ever. Certainly, the need to cushion the impact of the economic crisis is just as great the Asian financial crisis. The only illustration of the economic downsizing leading to the social devastation."

This speaks particularly hard at urbanising societies that have lost traditional forms of social protection. The process of rural-urban migration and urbanisation having eroded informal networks of support base on that.

Sir, the report further emphasised that everybody, regardless of where they live, needs a minimum level of social protection. Wherever they live, they need a minimum level of social protection and income security defying according to their society's capacity and level of development.

This will not happen automatically. Experience has shown that it is insufficient to realise solely on economic and democratic development. Each country must develop through social dialogue, a national social protection system that addresses the needs of its people particularly those of women and of the excluded groups working in the informal economy. In the Report, Pope John Paul-II emphasised and I quote: "There is need to establish who is responsible for guaranteeing the global common good and the exercise of economic and social rights. Free market by itself cannot do it because, in fact, there are many human needs that have no place in the market."

What we have been seeing during these years is that there has been gradual reduction in the social security, which was prevalent in the past. In our country, the total number of labour force is 40 crores. Out of 40 crores, 85 per cent are in the informal sector, in unorganised sector. That means, 37.5 crores of labour force is in the unorganised sector. Out of 37.5 crores, 22 crores are the agricultural labourers. There is no legislation for these agricultural labourers whose number is 22 crores. They do not get even the minimum wages. There is no guarantee for their work. There is no job security and there is no other social security for them. They are to work at bare minimum wages.

In the National Common Minimum Programme, it has been stated that the UPA Government or the UPA Administration will ensure fullest implementation of minimum wages laws of farm labour and a comprehensive protective legislation will be enacted for the agricultural workers. It has been very clearly stated that a comprehensive legislation should be brought. We have been demanding this for years together, that too, for the protection of agricultural labourers. Their number is 22 crores. They do not get minimum wages. There is no job guarantee for them. There is deprivation and exploitation of agricultural labourers. A comprehensive legislation should be brought for them.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

A Bill was drafted in 1989 when there was the Janata Party Government. In 1996, there was a demand to bring a Bill to protect the interests of agricultural workers. A comprehensive legislation was also drafted. But the Bill was not brought before the House. We do not know what was the reason for that. There is a need for a legislation, for the protection of the interests of a sizeable percentage of unorganised workers, that is, agricultural workers.

16.00 hrs.

We have a number of legislations. We have the Minimum Wages Act, we have the Payment of Bonus Act. But our experience is that various provisions of these Acts are violated by the management.

Today, there are 40 lakh bidi workers. They are the unorganised workers. You know, Sir, they have to work in unhygienic conditions. They are to roll the bidis manually. They smell the tobacco. It is because of that, most of the workers suffer from various diseases. A cess on bidi is collected and a fund has been created for the welfare of bidi workers—Bidi Workers' Welfare Fund. Crores of rupees are being collected out of the cess on bidis. That Fund is utilised—the purpose of creating that Fund is for the welfare of bidi workers, for the construction of their houses, for providing scholarships to the children of bidi workers and for the construction of hospitals for providing medical assistance to the bidi workers and their families.

There are dispensaries and in these dispensaries you will not get any medicine. In a number of hospitals, there are no sufficient doctors. Only three months back, I visited one such hospital in Dhuliyān in the district of Murshidabad. The hospital was set up only five years back. It is a big hospital and has a big building. But there are no sufficient doctors in that big hospital. In my constituency, one hospital was sanctioned—TB hospital—for the bidi workers at Jhalda in the district of Purulia, where, Sir, there is a small dispensary. They have to go to Dhuliyān for better treatment. Dhuliyān is more than 500 kms. from that place where a new hospital was sanctioned. Land was given to the Ministry of Labour. The State Government has handed over 12 acres of land for construction of the hospital for the bidi workers of not only the Purulia district but also for Bankura, where there are more than 70,000 of bidi workers. So, for about 2 lakh workers, a hospital was sanctioned. The State Government—the Advisory Board—five years back recommended a hospital for the welfare of bidi workers.

Hospital was sanctioned in-principle, but no fund has yet been provided. As a result of this, the construction of the hospital has not yet started. I urge upon the Labour Minister—as he has recently taken over the charge—to take urgent steps for the construction of the TB hospital for bidi workers. The Government need not provide money because they have that money, the Fund is there. Out of that, funds can be provided, and hospital can be constructed at the place where it was sanctioned.

Most of these bidi workers, almost hundred per cent, live below poverty line. Some innovative scheme should be evolved for the welfare of the bidi workers. Bidi industry is now being attacked. After the enactment of the Act and also because of the policy of liberalisation, there is a crisis in the bidi industry. More than 40 lakh workers are engaged in bidi industry.

In spite of the Supreme Court judgement, which was given 15 years back, their housing, education of children, health, insurance, provident fund, all these should be taken care of by the owners, I can give you a number of examples where the employers are not implementing this direction of the Supreme Court. In a number of units the Provident Fund scheme has not been introduced in case of thousands of bidi workers. Provident Fund is the only social security which they have got.

I urge upon the Labour Minister that a new pension scheme should be introduced. A pension scheme was announced by the NDA Government in the month of January just before the elections. During four years of their regime, they did not get time have a scheme for the unorganised workers whose number is 37.5 crore.

[*Translation*]

They did not get time during four years of their tenure. It was announced only two months before elections, they did not have time in four years. There was no mention about where the money will come from, where from will the fund come. In order to get the votes of the unorganised labour in elections it was announced that a pension scheme has been started, whereas actually no home work was done for it. They did nothing during four years of their regime.

[*English*]

Unemployment is growing.

I must congratulate the UPA Government that they have incorporated in their Common Minimum

Programme—an announcement was also made in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister—the Employment Guarantee Scheme. NDA regime promised to give one crore jobs each year. The then Prime Minister himself assured the nation that every year one crore jobs will be given. During six years of NDA regime we had seen that there was a reduction in labour in the organised sector. In Indian Railways itself, within six years of NDA regime there has been a reduction in the workforce by 1,52,000. From 16,00,000 it has come down to 14.5 lakh. There has been a reduction, downsizing, closing down of a number of units. Thousands of industries have been closed down, resulting in more than 40 lakh workers jobless.

Sir, what is the social security for the workers if an industry is closed? There is no social security. Unemployment is growing and in order to address this problem, the UPA Government has promised that an Employment Guarantee Scheme would be started. I think this is a step for meeting the demand of the people of our country and the youths of our country that right to work should be treated as a fundamental right.

The UPA Government has stated in its Common Minimum Programme that this Government is firm and committed to ensure the well being of all the workers, particularly in the unorganised sector, which constitute 93 per cent of our workforce. The social security schemes, such as health insurance and other schemes are being started for weavers, handloom workers, fishermen, fisher-women, toddy tapers, leather workers, etc. What is the condition of weavers today? We have seen during the six years of NDA regime that looms were closed down and they were burnt down by the weavers. We have seen hundreds of starvation deaths. The UPA Government is committed for the social security, health insurance and other schemes for weavers, handloom workers, etc.

Unemployment is growing among the handloom workers. Thousands of small and cottage industries are now closed. The small and cottage industries provide the largest employment in our country. There is a need to revive, modernise and technologically upgrade those units so that the units which are today facing crisis and on the verge of closure, may be saved. Lakhs of workers are employed in thousands of small and cottage units.

What have we seen in the National Textile Corporation? Out of 126 mills, the Government had decided to run only 56 mills and rest of them were closed down. What social security has been provided to the

workers who were engaged in those NTC mills which were closed down? They are now facing starvation. We had to ask for providing statutory dues to them. The Government is the owner of Central public sector undertakings. We have the Payment of Wages Act. Now there is a proposal to amend this Act. I raised this question on the floor of this House that if the workers of Central PSUs do not get their wages, who should be held responsible?

It is because the shares of the public sector undertakings are lying in the name of the *Rashtrapatiji*—the President of India. Government of India is the owner of the Central public sector undertakings and if the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act are violated, then who is to be held responsible? The Government of India should be held responsible.

Sir, I know a number of cases where people after their retirement are not getting their statutory dues like the Provident Fund, gratuity etc. There are starvation deaths on account of this. I placed on the Table of the House a list of 15 workers of a public sector undertaking who, after the closure of the unit, did not get their statutory dues for months together and had to commit suicide. It is not only the farmers who are committing suicide but even workers of public sector undertakings also are committing suicide owing to non-receipt of statutory dues after their retirement. If in Independent India workers were to commit suicide, then what should our comment be on that?

Sir, what is the condition of the female workers? I would like to request the hon. Labour Minister to get the information from Coal India. Coal India has a number of subsidiaries. Coal India has underground as well as opencast mines. In one of the subsidiaries of Coal India, namely BCCL, some 15 years back there were about 26,000 female workers. What is the number of female workers today in that subsidiary? The number was now come down to only 6,000. The female workers are now being given VRS. There has not been any recruitment of female workers in the subsidiaries of Coal India. Why should there be any discrimination against the female workers? Why are the female workers being forced to take retirement? Why has there not been any recruitment of female workers in the coal mines? I am talking about their recruitment in the underground mines. I know, that is prohibited. But there are offices of Coal India where female workers could be engaged. But they are not being engaged in such offices.

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

Sir, owing to liberalisation and globalisation, we have opened our doors to the multinational companies. Are these MNCs following our labour laws? Let us take the case of the Export Processing Zones. The Export Processing Zones are in our country. If any industry is set up in our country by an MNC, then that industry would have to follow the labour laws of our country. They should not be allowed to violate the labour laws of our country. Even the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act are being violated. The provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act are also being violated. In the Workmen's Compensation Act it is stipulated that if any worker is injured or meets with a fatal accident, then he has to be paid compensation. But I can cite a number of examples to show that various provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act have been violated. Compensation has not been given, only a lumpsum amount of money has been paid to them.

In the case of multinational companies, even minimum wages are not given. Eighth hours of duty is also not maintained. Workers have to work for more than ten hours. You will be surprised to know that drivers in Indian companies have to work for 15 to 20 hours a day. It was agreed upon in the written agreement of 1973 and it was announced in this House that henceforth the duty hours of running staff, from signing in to signing off, should be ten hours. Even after 30 years, that has not been followed even by the Indian Railways. Thousands of contract workers are there in the country who are engaged in civil work, in the maintenance of track and track renewal. Thousands of such workers are there. These workers are not getting their minimum wages. Even the ILO Convention which the Government of India has ratified is not being followed. That is also being violated. Where will these workers go? This is the result or the offshoot of the policies of liberalisation and globalisation. It has adversely affected the working class of our country and the social security.

Social security is not a charity. It is an inalienable right of human beings. What are we spending for social security in our country? We are spending 1.8 per cent of our GDP. Public expenditure by the Government on social security measures is merely 1.81 per cent of GDP in India. Other countries are spending much more. Expenditure on social security should be increased to two per cent of GDP. Small countries like Mexico and Sri Lanka are spending more on social security than our country. Even China is spending more than three per cent of GDP on social security.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Acharia Sahib, if you allow me I would like to make one submission to you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): All right.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: If some information is given about Bihar and West Bengal like poor states regarding these issues it will increase the knowledge of house.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: West Bengal is not a poor State. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

West Bengal is the only such State. This is admitted in the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour and that Commission was constituted during your Government.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I only want to know something about issue being discussed. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am referring to the report prepared during the tenure of their own Government. This report does not belong to our Government's time. It has been mentioned in this report that West Bengal is the only State to introduce Provident Fund for Unorganised Labour. West Bengal is the only State where the units have been closed and locked out. Allowances are being given to the labourers every month. It is not there in any other report. The National Labour Commission formed during the tenure of their Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It is through out India except West Bengal.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: There is a reference to it in their report. It is there in the report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not cross-talk. Gehlot ji, your name is the next to him.

[English]

I am talking of our country and he is referring to a particular State. When he has referred to a particular State, I have to clarify the position.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request Shri Gehlot to make note of all the points that Shri Acharia is making. Then, he can reply to his points when his turn comes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In West Bengal, Provident Fund Scheme has been introduced for agriculture labourers. Unemployment allowance has been introduced. With regard to closed industrial units, West Bengal is the only State which has been mentioned in the Report.

What more do you want to hear, please tell.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not say anything more to him, make your own submission.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: What have they done for employment? They have produced two Reports. One is Gupta Committee Report and the other is Ahluwalia Committee Report. They have made some recommendations. They have implemented none of the recommendations during their regime.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Why do you not implement them now?

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Law to this effect is coming.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Six months have already passed.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: They have ruined the country in six years. Earlier they were there, now they have joined BJP, but still they remain there. Which is why this is happening. Their Government kept sleeping for six years, the country was ruined, industries were closed, disinvestment has blocked the way to employment, and we are being asked as to what we have been doing during the last six months. We must think about what is happening in Bengal. Please do not ask me to speak more.

[English]

Sir, according to United Nations Development Programme, for most people a feeling of insecurity arises more from worries about daily life than from the dread of cataclysmic world events.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Acharia, you have introduced this Bill on a very important subject. I have seven names with me. You would also like that all of them participate in the discussion. Please keep that in mind when you formulate your arguments.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It can be extended for the next week.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is true. But we should try to give time to other Members also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is a very important subject. Many Members are interested in participating in the discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Divide the time among yourselves. I am not restricting your time as such. But the time that was allotted by the Committee for this purpose was two hours. We should endeavour to complete the discussion within that time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It is always done. A particular time limit is given and subsequently it is extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I do not want to be strict on that, but please keep that in mind. Formulate your arguments in that way.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Time can be extended. It is a very important subject. Many Members will be interested to participate in the discussion. ...*(Interruptions)*

Their worries are: Will they and their families have enough to eat; will they lose their jobs; will their streets and neighbourhoods be safe from crime; will they be tortured by specific States, like Gujarat; will they become subject to violence because of their gender.

Human security can be said to have two main aspects. It means safety from chronic threats like hunger. That is why 'food for work' programme has been started.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It was already there.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: It was not there earlier. They did not do anything in six years. Which is why they have to sit in opposition now. They thought they will remain in power but they had to go. Now they should remain there for some time.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Say something new. The same things were said six months back and the same things are being repeated now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pandey ji, please do not do this. Acharya ji, please confine yourself to your subject.

(English)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will they be subject to violence because of their gender? It means safety from chronic threats such as hunger, diseases and depression. It means protection from sudden hurtful disruption of pattern of life. Disruption in the pattern of life, may be in jobs or in communities.

The World Bank has defined this term as 'human-oriented, capital-oriented intervention'. The definition integrates labour market intervention, social assurance and social safety. Social security needs to be viewed as a basic right rather than charity-oriented intervention.

Sir, I was talking about the GDP. Sir, in India, the public expenditure on social security is 1.8 per cent of GDP as against 4.7 per cent in Sri Lanka, and 3.6 per cent in China. In the light of inadequate expenditure on social security in India, it is necessary that the plans and programmes be devised to address the needs of diverse vulnerable sections of the people comprising the total population. Sir, these are unemployment disability, unemployment injury, employment injury, retirement from occupation, maternity emergency expenses, old-age physical disease and incapability. The Government of West Bengal had, five years back, introduced a Scheme regarding financial assistance to the workers in locked-out industrial units. The basic objective of this Scheme is to reopen closed units. It is also envisaged that some kind of financial relief may be given to the workers who are out of employment due to the closure by the State. The Minister of Labour should evolve such innovative scheme for the workers who are facing starvation due to the closure of their units. I would like that such innovative scheme should be evolved by the Ministry of Labour.

Sir, there are lakhs of construction workers. A legislation was enacted in this very House and only four States have provided benefits under Building and Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act, 1996. This Act was passed in the Parliament. Only two States, namely, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, have framed the rules. The Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board was constituted only in two States, namely, Kerala and Assam.

Sir, the Ninth Five Year Plan, while defining this social security, emphasized on making social security as a right. They recommended that social security should be included in the list of Fundamental Rights. But that recommendation has not been implemented so far. That is why, I have brought this Bill because article 41 of the Constitution states that:

"The States shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work..."

Once an attempt was made in the Eighth Five Year Plan. There was an attempt but that was not done. The State shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old-age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want. This is contained in the Directive Principles of State Policy. This has also not been implemented. There is a need for implementing it in order to ensure social security.

The First Labour Commission defined unorganised labour as those who have not been able to organise themselves in pursuit of common objectives on account of constraints like the casual nature of employment, ignorance, illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishment, position of power enjoyed by the employers because of the nature of industry. The main workers are those workers who work for the major part of the year—296 days per year. The marginal workers are those workers who work for less than six months. Out of the total workforce of 314 million in India, about 286 million workers—about 91 per cent—are the main workers and 28 million—about 9 per cent—workers are marginal workers. About 60 per cent of the labour in the organised sector is engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Those workers are the most exploited workers among the unorganised workers. There are also the migrant workers.

Another problem is under-employment. That problem is also growing. The wages are being reduced. Outsourcing is being done. In place of permanent labour, the contract labour is engaged. We have a law in our country called the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 which their Government wanted to repeal. Is it not a fact that they wanted to repeal that Act? They wanted to amend the Industrial Disputes Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

They did not do it because they could not. Their Trade Union also opposed this. They could not work because DMS opposed them and all the Central Trade Unions opposed it.

[English]

I was telling that they wanted to repeal this Act. Whatever right the contract workers today have, it flows from the Act that was passed in 1970. That Act is also being violated in a number of cases. Where the engagement of contract labour is prohibited, there also contract labourers are engaged. He knows it because I have given him three cases only three days back. In the Food Corporation of India, for the handling work, the engagement of contract workers is prohibited but contract workers are engaged. They are being exploited.

The most important social security is Provident Fund. Earlier, the interest rate on Provident Fund was 12 per cent. When they came to power, they set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Reddy who is now the Governor of Reserve Bank of India. What was the argument of that Committee? What was the recommendation of that Committee? The Reddy Committee recommended that the interest rate on Provident Fund should be reduced to 8.5 per cent. Why? It is because the inflationary rate, at that time, was only 2.5 per cent. It was true that the inflationary rate was 2.5 per cent. ... (Interruptions) Today, why are they asking to enhance the interest rate to 12 per cent? Why are you asking? Is it unjustified? It is not unjustified. The interest rate was reduced to 9.5 per cent, but they decided to reduce it to 8.5 per cent. They did not implement that because of election. They decided to reduce it. Why are you asking it to enhance the interest rate to 12 per cent because the interest rate is 7.5 per cent? When interest rate was 12 per cent, then inflationary rate was 7.5 per cent? When interest rate was 12 per cent, then inflationary rate was 7.5 per cent. So, why should the interest rate not be enhanced to 12 per cent?

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): It is because the industries have become sick.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: If you do not pay the workers, then industries will become sick.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Only if the industries survive, then only can the workers survive.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why have you become so anti-worker? Some time you think about the workers also—the working class also. Why are you having this mentality? Only the workers, who have built this nation, are responsible. We have that asset because the Soviet Union were with us. If the Soviet Union were not with us, Bokaro and Bhilai—the big Indian industries—would not have been with us.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: The Rourkela Steel Plant was built by the Germans.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Who built Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants? Who gave us the money? Who gave us the technology?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Basu Deb Acharia, I am drawing your attention. Please do not address them and please be brief. Please do not be distracted by what they are saying. You formulate your points. You mention all your points very briefly.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why should the interest rate not be 10 per cent? At least, it should not be reduced from 9.5 per cent. Keep it. This is the only social security. The workers are the lifeline of our country. This is the only social security after retirement. Where will they go? There is unemployment. Unemployment is growing. More than six crore youths are unemployed. The employment opportunity has sunk both in the public as well as in the private sectors. They are eulogising the private sector. They are sitting to eulogise the private sector. Public sector has given employment to our country. That is why, we are with public sector. Who was there when we achieved Independence? Why did we start to follow the path of socialism? The policy of self-reliance was the backbone of the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956. We will have to stand on our feet, that is why, the big industries, the public sector undertakings came up in our country. We cannot compare the social security that we have with a public sector undertaking or with a private sector undertaking. We opposed the privatisation of NALCO. I went to NALCO three times. I went to Dhamanjodi. But they were in favour of privatisation of NALCO. They were sitting there.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: We never supported privatisation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: You did not support them. I know they supported privatisation. They were for privatisation.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: We come from the social background.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I know you have the social background.

So, Sir, that is why, I want that social security—the right to social security should be included in the list of Fundamental Rights. It is an inalienable right to the millions and millions of people of our country. The agricultural labour, the construction workers, the bidi workers, the handloom workers and the weavers are the unorganised workers. We should think for them if we want to implement the Common Minimum Programme. It is because our support to this Government is for this only.

Sir, we support this Government from outside. We want this Government to continue in power for five years, but this Government should work within the contours of the Common Minimum Programme. A heavy burden of about Rs. 35,000 crore was put on the people of this country in the last five or six years. We urge upon this Government to remove that burden and urge them not to follow the path of the previous Government.

The people of India have rejected them. The mandate of the people of India in the last Lok Sabha elections is not in favour of any particular formation, but their mandate is clear, unambiguous and it is against the anti-people policies that were being pursued by the NDA Government. The present Government has to change those policies and that is why we support the Common Minimum Programme where providing social security to the workers, to the poor people, to the disabled and to the agricultural workers is a main component.

So, I urge upon the UPA Government to implement the Common Minimum Programme in regard to providing social security to the people of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration."

Before I call upon the next hon. Member to speak, I have a request from Shri Wangyuh Konyak to introduce his two Bills. I allow him to introduce those two Bills now.

16.47 hrs.

**(xxxiii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004*
(Amendment of article 164)**

[English]

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Sir, 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 W. WANGYUH KONYAK: I introduce the Bill.

16.48 hrs.

**(xxxiv) Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2004*
(Amendment of Section 2)**

[English]

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Delimitation Act, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: I introduce the Bill.

16.48 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004
(Insertion of New Article 21B, Etc.)—Contd.**

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to express my views on the

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 3.12.2004.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004, introduced by hon'ble Member of the House Shri Basudeb Achariji. I know Shri Basudeb Acharia for a long time. I have been listening to his speeches like this for the last 25 years. He knows the art of manipulating the figures. Such speeches have made me form an impression for him and his party that proves the proverb that what is obvious is not always the ultimate truth. They used to do the same thing earlier too, whenever they supported the Government. Today they are supporting from outside, but are doing the same. Now they have demanded for a constitution amendment here, Article 21 of the Constitution has a provision for giving free and compulsory education to children between the age of 6 to 14 years. They want that Article 41 which provides for right to work and right to education alongwith some other rights should be deleted. They also argue that Article 21 covers the provisions of 21B and other points such as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Though the need was to make a brief speech on the issue but he has given a long speech. It is good that he did not speak about 1st May, the Labour Day and what happens in foreign countries. He was to some extent, brief. He would have spoken more if some more Members had left the House. I have heard his speech. He speaks for a longer time if lesser number of Members are there and speaks less if the number of Members is more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He restricted himself only after I requested him to keep some time for you.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I would like to remind him that the Constitution of India came into force on 30th January, 1950 and there were already provisions in Articles 45, 21 and 51 for the right to free and compulsory education. Even after elapsing 50 years of the enforcement of Constitution nothing has been done in this direction by their Government or the Governments supported by them. I can proudly say that it was only the Government of hon'ble Atal Bihari Vajpayee that has taken some measures in this direction.

The Government under the leadership of Atalji had included the right to education in the fundamental rights by amending article 21, 51 and 45 of the Constitution. If they do not recall, I would like to tell about those three Articles. The present Government have proposed about the education to the children of six to fourteen years of age. In that amendment it was from class one or from five years to 14 years of age. In article 45, 21 and 51 there is a provision of free and compulsory education to the children of four to fourteen years of age. The article 35 assigns the responsibility to the State Government

while article 21 assigns responsibility to the Central Government. Similarly article 51 assigns the responsibility to the parents in this regard. This has been done by the previous Government. It would have been better if he had said even a sentence that the steps taken by the previous Government in this direction, were commendable, but he did not do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The scope of the present Bill is limited to article 21(b) only. I would like that you should concentrate more on that.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I am speaking on that. If you minutely. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though you are speaking on Article 21, however, the present concern is limited to article 21(b). You please focus on that.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: I have submitted about article 21(b) and on the basis of that there are certain provision that provide right to social security to all citizens and this provision will not be suspended in any situation. Now I am coming on that. It would be better if he had spoken about the amendments that have been carried out and the nature of laws. That is why I am reminding this. Further, he should have spoken how the previous Government implemented by launching education drive for all and increasing budget on education from Rs. 40,000 crore to Rs. 49,000 crore and how the same Government had launched the campaign of education for all in the entire country and for that purpose they had provided funds of Rs. 33,000 crore. If he had spoken even one word in that matter, it would not have been essential for me to speak.

As far the question of Article 21(b) is concerned, when the amendment was made and follow up action was initiated for its implementation he could have suggested that circular, orders and directives to this effect should be issued so that this scheme could be implemented properly. It would have been better, had such suggestion been given. Now they want to debate article 41. Right to work and other things are concerned in point 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 after (b) of the Article 41 which is proposed to be deleted. I would like to remind in this regard that Labour Act was formulated after the independence of the country. He has referred not one but several types of rules and regulations. I would not like to waste the time of the House in repeating all its names.

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every type of Acts has been formulated. Certain rules have also been framed for their implementation. There are some minor shortcomings in the compliance of the said rules. It would have been better had he given suggestion for its rectification, however, he did not do so. I would like to remind him that the Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had constituted a commission for the detailed study of the Constitution of India. The objective behind this was that the purpose for which the Constitution was framed and implemented could not be fulfilled. The vision of the constitution makers in making the Constitution was that there would be no unemployment, discrimination, gap between rich and poor untouchability and there would be peace and tranquility in the country and every body would get employment and would have the opportunity to earn their bread and butter, however, even after 55 years since the Constitution was enforced, we find that there is gap between rich and poor and there are several types of discrimination in the society. That commission was constituted with the objective to ponder over all those things and give suggestions for moving relevant constitution amendment Bill.

Sir, the Constitution was adopted in 1950 and 55 years have elapsed since then but the form of the country that should have been reflected is lacking in that. The Commission was asked to ponder whether there were some shortcomings in the provisions of the Constitution or whether there were fault in the implementation of those provision or whether those provisions are being misused and also to submit report in this regard. That Commission has submitted its report to the Government. The points that have been raised here by Basu Dev Acharya have already been included in the report of the Commission. Why efforts are not begin made to move a bill after incorporating all those points?

Sir, as regards, Labour Act, second labour Commission was constituted at the time of hon'ble Satyanarayan Jatiya and all these points were included in its Constitution. The Contract Labour Act and recruitment Acts were also dealt in that. Besides, the issues related to industrial dispute Act, workers employed in unorganised sector, Bidi workers and migrant labourers were also included there. The second Labour Commission was constituted to look into the existing disparity despite various types of 18-20 laws. The second labour Commission was constituted to submit report regarding the issues raised by Shri Basu Dev Acharya ji. The Commission has submitted its report after pondering over these points.

Sir, the reports of both the commission are at present under the consideration of the present Government. If he has guts, he should move comprehensive amendment Bill incorporating the issues that he has raised in his speech and have discussed in detail to implement those suggestions. Then we will support him. It is not proper to move incomplete amendment Bill and except our support.

Sir, the Congress Government was in power in 1991 and hon'ble Manmohan Singh was the Minister of Finance. The policy of liberalisation was implemented during his tenure. Then Shri Narsimha Rao was the Prime Minister of the country. During his tenure as the Prime Minister the policy of liberalisation was implemented.
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Thawar Chand Gehlot ji, do you know when the Commission had submitted its report? I would like to inform him that the Commission had submitted its report in 2002 and thereafter their Government remained in power for two years. They had two years to implement that report but why did they not implement the report?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Acharia ji, please address the Chair. Please do not directly address him.

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, please address the Chair.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir. Acharia ji was submitting that our Government did not implement the report of the Commission for two years. If we committed mistake and we did not do anything for two years and I also accept our mistake but why is he repeating that mistake? Here he is displaying his sympathy in his speech and shedding tears but it will not do anything. Rate of interest on G.P.F. and P.F. has been reduced. Stringent measures were required to be taken to improve the economic condition of the country and our Government did so. The present Government have further reduced half to one percent in the rate of interest that was reduced at the time of our Government. What the present Government are doing? When the rate of interest on GPF and PPF was eight and half percent, the then Minister of Labour and the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee decided that the Ministry of Labour would increase interest on GPF and EPF by one percent. Do they have guts, are their Government providing it? Their Government have withdrawn it. They have reduced it to eight percent from nine and half percent and he is delivering speech here.

I would like to talk about the foreign capital investment. Since he has referred to so I would also like to make submission in this regard. I have already told that its scope is very limited and we have to concentrate only on article 21 and 21b. They have proposed to delete article 41 and some of its points have been added in article 21 and we were supposed to confine ourselves to that but he is mentioning of foreign capital investment. As per the provision made by our Government only 26 percent foreign Capital investment was allowed in LIC but what did the present Government do? If he has figures with him, he should tell us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We are opposing it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: When are you opposing it? It has been increased to 54 percent but they are not opposing it. It seems that they are stunned. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Nothing had done so far. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Not only this, what did the Government do in telecom Bureau? When we permitted only 49 percent investment in this sector, the opposition interrupted the proceedings of the House tore the papers. ...*(Interruptions)* and raised. What did they do, do they have figures? ...*(Interruptions)* They are going to increase percentage of foreign capital investment in Telecom Bureau from 49 percent to 74 percent. They should clarify as to what is their stand on it? It is a kind of back stabbing towards the poor people of the country. It is not good. I have also worked in Trade Union for 25 years and I am well aware about them and they are also conversant with me. They have done maximum damage to the workers of the country. They have thought only about their interest and did not work for the interest of the country and the industry. Whenever they wanted they resorted to strike and more than half of the industries in West Bengal have closed down. They criticise about the foreign capital investment. The Chief Minister of his party remained on tour to foreign countries. Shri Jyoti Basu and Shri Bhattacharya Saheb remained on foreign tour. They invited foreign companies to their State for setting up industry. It is due to their policy that no any new company is setting up industry there. There is other Union that supported management on every issue that led harm to the workers and the poors. The trade Union to which I was associated always think about the interest of the country labour as well industries. We always take decision

after intense deliberation so as to implement that policy. He knows that hon. Saheb Singh Verma ji had formulated assurance scheme and some other schemes in unorganised sector and these scheme have been implemented. The Government should gather courage in this regard. Generally Labour related Acts come under the control at State Government and wherever their Govt. is in the power the condition of the workers is pathetic over there. That is why I would like to submit that he should translate his words into action. If he has courage, he should demand from the Government in this respect. I demand from the Government that they should consider the report of second labour commission that is laying pending with them and bring a comprehensive constitution amendment Bill. The Government should give the shape of law to those good steps of the Labour Commission that are in the interest of poors and workers. Whatever was envisaged in the Constitution of India is not in practice and the reasons behind it, have been reflected by the Commission in its report. Keeping in view the facts, the Government should bring constitution amendment Bill, I will support that, I demand of both these things and at the same time I request the Communist Party and Communist Party Marxist and other left parties that they should bring comprehensive constitution amendment Bill on the basis of the reports of these commission in the interest of the country. If they do so I and my party will support. I oppose this constitution amendment Bill and he. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That is other thing to extend support.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It is meaningless to support this Bill as there is no benefit to the poors and the workers, simply Article 41 has been replaced by Article 21. This is nothing but manipulation in the Constitution. I submit that the Government should modify its policy for the workers and for the God's sake and improve its functioning otherwise they should withdraw this support from the Government. There will be no benefit in shading crocodile tears.

I do not feel necessity to speak more at this moment. I only demand from the government that they should consider the report submitted by Constitution Review Commission and second Labour Commission with all seriousness and after intense deliberations they should take initiative to enact labour laws and to amend the Constitution then we will support the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution amendment Bill moved by hon'ble Shri Basu Deb Achariaji.

After the opening speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Shri Thawarchand Gehlot made speech on behalf of Bharatiya Janata Party. I do not want to go into what comment did he make regarding the speech of Shri Basu Deb Acharia. The main point and objective of the Bill is to provide social security to the neglected, poor, elderly, handicapped persons and destitutes. The speech of Shri Thawarchand Gehlot remained confined to the problems of the workers. As far I have understood the intent of this Bill is to make it obligatory for the state to see that no one is allowed to suffer from starvation and malnutrition and to provide employment to the unemployed and if not employment then atleast unemployment allowance. Health services be provided to those who are not being covered by them and the state should resolve that no person suffers from destitution and helplessness.

Social security provides for the universal human needs and as I told earlier through you that the social security cannot be confined to the welfare of the workers. Right now, Shri Thawarchandji stated that there is a need to have a look at the report of the second Labour commission. I am talking about the last Lok Sabha in which he has spoken in this regard and I was also a Member then. Though several Committees e.g. Montek Singh Ahluwalia Committee, S.C. Gupta Committee and Second Labour Commission were set up on the problem of unemployment but the Government failed to provide any relief to the common Indian on this front.

The question is not as to who is doing welfare of the poor, workers or people suffering from starvation? Whosoever is in Government should do something for their welfare but the main thing is that the destitutes and the poor should be given assurance by the Government that they would not die due to poverty.

As far workers are concerned, there is already a plethora of laws for them e.g. Employee State insurance Act, 1948, Employees Provident Fund Provision Act 1952, Labourer Compensation Act, Employees Pension Scheme etc. However what are the reasons that despite so many laws their problems and sufferings could not be solved? I think that the Government lacked the will power to implement the laws after enacting them and we did not get desired result.

Today, what is the situation in our country? Starvation deaths take place in the country and more than 55 percent children suffer from malnutrition. Only 30 percent households have electricity connection and a large number of people are unemployed. If we talk about the law and order problem and internal security then the root cause of this problem lies in the problem of unemployment. When youth fail to get employment even after acquiring higher qualification like B.A., M.A., B.Sc., M.Sc. etc. he is forced to adopt wrong path. The fact is that no concrete efforts have been taken in this direction. I would certainly want the Government to take initiative to address this problem.

When we talk about social justice, it cannot be achieved merely by enacting laws. It can be achieved by providing equal platform for all and by uplifting the education level of the people.

Shri Thawarchand Gehlot talked about the "Education for All" campaign. I would like to tell him that only one fourth of the total budgetary allocation made for 'Education for All' campaign has been spent. I would like to tell him that UNESCO has made this observation that if the 'Education for All' campaign continue to go on the same pace then it would not be possible to achieve the target of providing education to all children till 2015. Vocational Education is out of the reach of the common man. 1.5 crore children dropout of schools after eighth class. It is not because the parents are unwilling to send them in school but it is not possible for them to continue in school due to poverty.

Dual Education Policy is in the vogue in our country. Today it is difficult for a common man to educate his children for it is too costly. Only 2.5 percent of the children are getting vocational education in the country. There are so many talented children who do not get opportunity to neglect it. They can rise to highest echelons but they get deprived of the opportunity to get higher education. We do not pay any attention towards it.

17.14 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Only one percent youth in the country are getting education in 11 thousand colleges of 230 universities? What sort of country do you want to make out of India? What kind of education is supposed to be imparted to the poor and what kind of justice is sought to be dispensed to the poor?

The prevailing education system in our country is dual in its nature and it is different for rich as well as poor. I am of the view that under existing education system the conception of providing social justice to common man is nothing but a long pipedream. After agriculture, small scale and cottage industry is the biggest employment generating sector in the country and the small scale industries are declining continuously. Last year the percentage decline in this sector is 5.2 percent. The employment opportunities in India are drying up in this blind race of liberalisation? What is the ground reality? The truth is that if we invest 5 lakh rupees in a small scale industry it generates employment for seven persons. While the same investment in a large industry generates the employment for a single person. When we talk of foreign capital investment we tend to forget that with the foreign investment arrival of foreign technology is also imperative. The arrival of foreign technology will only snatch and not create the employment opportunities in this country of one billion. We can not yield good results by ignoring the peculiar geographical, cultural condition and the social set up of our country. Every village in India used to produce cloth in 18th century and that was enough not only for our domestic needs, but also for exporting it to Europe. The 18th Century also marked the arrival of industrial revolution in Britain and the production of cloth used to take place there and India was converted into a market for produced goods. Therefore we had lit the fire of foreign clothes as a symbol during our independence struggle.

I would like to say very humbly that unless a country has the fervour of allowing self reliance it can not develop. I do not think that there can be as worse a thought as considering that we are going to achieve self reliance with foreign aid and assistance. It is true that road development has made very good progress. I do not want to criticise anyone but the present condition of roads is causing a loss of Rs. One Thousand crore per year in the country.

Lastly, I would like to say that the prime objective of this Bill is to ensure that no Indian dies for want of medicines and no child fall a victim of malnutrition. Every child get good education and nobody lives a life of destitution and helplessness. This is the objective of this Constitution Amendment Bill. I would like to say quite humbly that the common man has lost his faith in the present system under the Prevalent situation in the country. If the efforts are made by the Government to restore the faith of the common people than I think, the Government have succeeded in performing its bounden duty.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur); Sir, I support this Constitution Amendment Bill because the intention of the Bill is the well being of our people. Sir, the amendment is proposed to an Article in the Directive Principles of the Constitution. We all know that the Directive Principles were the direction in which the founding fathers of the Constitution thought that India should go forward. It was probably a dream about the future of the country, but after so many decades of our Independence and the formation of the Republic, we have not achieved the goal. My feeling is that it is not because of the lack of legislations. Probably, we have so many legislations which are all well-meaning and well-intentioned, but the questions is whether we had sufficient political will to implement those legislations, even if we did not have a very sound economic ground.

Here, I would like to cite Prof. Amartya Sen, the well-known Indian economist who got Nobel Prize for his studies on hunger, poverty, unemployment and all that. He studied, Sir, especially your State, and my State also, Kerala and it is he who spoke about the Kerala model of development. Probably everybody will know that Kerala is not a State that stands economically on a very sound footing. If you take the *per capita* income of that State or the economic level the State has achieved, you will find that it stands on a lower ladder. There are many States like Punjab, Maharashtra, Haryana which are ahead of Kerala. But what Prof. Amartya Sen pointed out is 'with that backward economy, with a highly developed social consciousness and with the people mobilised in public action, Kerala could achieve what India's other States could not achieve-fully literacy.'

Full literacy is a dream. In the whole of world, there are very few countries that could achieve full literacy. How could Kerala achieve that? It is not economically a forward State that has achieved high development. Its *per capita* income is very low. Because the entire society felt, the entire society participated in the movement, that brought about a situation that everybody was educating the other one. It was declared according to UN norms that Kerala is a State that achieved full literacy. So, it is not economic development that brings prosperity to everybody. It is the political will that you are determined to see that illiteracy is wiped out and illiteracy has been wiped out.

Again, Prof. Amartya Sen pointed out another thing, that is, health care. He said 'that is a State which has

[Shri C.K. Chandrappan]

least infant mortality rate and that is a State where every village has a primary health centre with a doctor, nurses and other minimum facilities.' We may complain sometimes that it is not enough, but the basic infrastructure has been provided. Then, what is the result? Infant mortality is almost wiped out compared to what it is elsewhere in the country. It is much below the All India average or the condition in other States. Then, life expectancy in Kerala stands even at par with some of the European countries. These were achieved not because the State of Kerala had a very sound economic ground, but because it had the political will to achieve it. I am not saying that it is the political will expressed in terms of any particular political party. For decades together people in Kerala thought that these are some of the goals that should be achieved in spite of the political affiliations people may have. There was a consensus about this issue.

I feel that, through the constitutional amendment, we are further reiterating our will that we want to do it, but it is not possible merely by amending the Constitution or by merely introducing a Bill. The success lies in the political will, and around that political will a consensus has to be built among the people. The people need to be mobilised in the direction in which you want to achieve the goals, and move forward. If this is done, then there is a chance that it can be achieved even in conditions, which are not economically so sound. This is the experience Prof. Amartya Sen showed to the whole world. He showed that it is possible, and that it is not necessary that very high economic development should be there, then only unemployment will be wiped out. It is not really the case.

Coming to certain realities of the problem, I would like to point out that if you look at ancient India, about which Shri Ramji Lal Suman mentioned, we had a tradition of handloom industries, and we know how the Britishers tried to finish it. They had cut the fingers of the fine weavers of Benaras.

India never had to face famine. We may have had poverty, but India never had the kind of famine that India experienced under the British rule, which culminated in the Bengal famine. We did not have it, but when the Britishers came to India, they created a socio-economic condition, which was their system that they transplanted from Britain to India. The whole traditional pattern of our lifestyle was questioned as a result of this move. This started the crisis in those days, and the crisis culminated,

in the intermitent periods, for India to face horrible conditions of famine, in which people died like flies. This is what had happened during that period. So, it is a question of a political approach, a political understanding.

Let us take the case of our traditional industries, which used to give employment to people. I am coming from the State of Kerala. Our traditional industries are coir, cashew, handloom, fisheries, tiles, etc. All of them are in crises today. Excuse me when I say that it is probably the result of liberalisation and globalisation. All the protection, which was there for the coir industry—the floor price, the purchase price, the rebate, everything-has vanished. What is the result of all this today? It is very interesting to note that the export earning of the coir industry has been enhanced, that is, the export earning is getting much bigger, but the employment opportunity is at the bottom level. All the hon. Members might think as to why it has happened like this. It all happened like this because the organised industries have been killed, and it has been made a kind of cottage industry in order to exploit it galloping. This is the present condition here.

You can see the same situation in the cashew industry. The cashew industry is an industry that earns more revenue by way of exports. Cashew is a commodity that sold well in the international market. Mostly women used to work in the cashew processing industry, and now, most of the women are unemployed, though the export earnings are increasing every year. Here, you will see the ruthless exploitation brought about by globalisation and liberalisation. Whatever protection was there for these industries and for the poor workers, it was all gradually removed, and the exporters were given a free hand. The exporters are merrily making money. Can that be the policy? It is where the question of social justice comes. This Constitution Amendment is for that purpose. I can cite many examples like this, but I do not want to take the time of the House.

The tile industry—from clay, the tiles are made for thatching houses and all that—used to provide employment to lakhs of people in Central Kerala and northern part of Kerala. Today, if you go to those places, you will see that all those industries have gone and it has become graveyard of those industries. The hon. Member was talking about the bidi industry. In the northern most districts of Kerala, Kasargod and Kannur, an effort was made to save this industry by organising workers' cooperatives. For some years, it worked, but then came the era of globalisation with its new attack on the workers, and all the cooperative societies are now getting finished.

Arabian Sea has always been kind to Kerala because we get a lot of fish from there and we used to export. It though we eat a lot of fish, still, we catch enough fish to export, and the export earnings were huge. You must be knowing, Madam, that trawlers were allowed, and the multinational owners of trawlers do merrily whatever they want to. We allowed the trawlers of foreign companies and the Indian monopolists to fish in the Indian waters and they are trawling round the clock. There is nothing let now for the poor fishermen to go and catch. Though it is a very large ocean, he is not getting the fish any more, and he is starving; they are dying. Here, what is required is not the enactment of more legislations. Even then, I support this Bill because it expresses a certain desire—a desire that people should be protected. Social security should be provided and, therefore, I support this Bill.

What the Government is really required to do is to bring in policy changes. If these traditional industries are properly run, they will provide a bedrock on which the poor Indian people can make both ends meet. The policies have killed those poor people because nothing new could be created. Now, they are almost in a hellish condition. People are unemployed and people are suffering from starvation; poverty is everywhere. In this situation I would request the Government to act with more determination; the Government should have the political will and this Government should stand for the well-being of the common man, poor, unemployed, illiterate and destitute persons. They should intervene now, otherwise they will remain in the same condition for years to come. If the Government is committed to do certain things, then it should come forward and act rather than enact more legislations so that we will reach a situation where the Indian people will have better social security in their life.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a matter of principle I support the Constitution Amendment Bill 2004, moved by Shri Basu Deb Achariaji because the motive behind this is to provide social security to all the citizens, which I appreciate, however, we will have to think before passing it.

Tenth Five Year Plan is being implemented at present in the country. It has been 57 years since we got independence. Many Governments came during these 57 years. Making allegations and counter allegations would

not serve our purpose. Those who were in power made all out efforts, why, the expected results were not achieved? Why the poor became poorer and the rich more wealthy? Why the difference continued to increase? We need to think the reasons. I believe that the education system introduced by Lord Macaulay during British period increased unemployment. After independence every leader advocated for a basic change in education system, however, focus remained on theoretical education system due to which the spirit of self-reliance and self-dependence could not be nurtured. Every educated person started running after job and when job opportunities became limited unemployment increased.

Ultimately, today unemployment is growing by leaps and bounds. The number of Colleges and Universities have increased manifold. People having theoretical knowledge, holding a B.A. degree or diploma and also willing to work, have been left with minimum job opportunities. There is an Urdu Couplet- "Tu idhar-udhar ki bbat na kar, Yeh bataa kafi kyun luta, Mujhe rahjani se gurez nahi, Sawal to teri rahbari ke hai"—Be it this Government or that, a number of policies of adopted, schemes formulated of huge amounts spent on various projects but in spite of so much scientific and physical developments the disparity has kept growing. The poor has become poorer and the rich wealthier. On one hand the education system introduced by Lord Macaulay but on the other the increasing population is responsible for increasing unemployment. Although China's population is more than ours but they have controlled their population but our Government has not been able to do so. Even after 57 years of independence there has been a sharp rise in poverty, starvation unemployment, illiteracy and diseases. Nothing could be achieved even after spending so much. The rate of increase in population has double of *i.e.* 2, 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, 128 in comparison to the rate of increase in production or development *i.e.* 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. There is no harmony between them. Therefore we should try to sort out the basic cause. "Jo tu seve mool ko Phool Phale Adhaie." We are not able to resolve the basic problem. Is there a way to control the increasing population. We should make efforts to control the increasing population. On one hand the already unemployed persons are not getting jobs and on the other hand more and more persons are being rendered unemployed every year. All educated people are running after jobs. A farmer's son doesn't want to work in fields after being educated, same is with the labourer's son, Blacksmith's son and the potter's son as nobody wants to do the traditional job. Everybody wants a job whereas earlier the country's villages were self-reliant. It was

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

assumed that the profession of farmer, potter, goldsmith etc. would be followed from one generation to another. The society at that time was self-sufficient and divided into specified categories. Cottage industries were there in the country during those days. Muslin, the finest quality of cloth produced in Dhaka before Britishers came to India was very well known, but the craftsmen hands were amputated in order to consume the produce of England. In a way the cottage as well as the traditional small scale and industries were completely destroyed.

As a result of which, our cottage, small-scale and traditional industries have been ruined. Our mentality has changed. The educated people want to do only white collar jobs. They do not want to do manual work. Because of that poverty is increasing continuously in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is an instance in Rama Charitra Manas. Leaders have it not, when Hanumanji was proceeding towards Lanka to find out the whereabouts of Mata Sita, the mother of snakes, Sursa came forward to test Hanumanji. As Tulsidasji has written "Jas Jas Sursa badan badava, tasu doon kapi roop dikhawa". As Sursa opened her mouth upto 100 yojan, Hanumanji assumed a smaller form and entered her mouth and came back unscathed. Thus Hanumanji passed the test. Such is the condition of our population which is increasing like the mouth of Sursa.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, mention has been made about social security. There is a need to make constitutional amendment in this regard but I feel that all educated people should get employment. In our constitution, education is a fundamental right but I feel that education should also be provided to ensure primary education, to increase human resources, to make people live with dignity, to make people ideal citizen and to provide technical education. But if we do not provide employment to educated people just because they are not doing manual work, in that case we would go astray from our goal that we have set out to achieve, consequently the situation would worsen. Since there is already a provision in the constitution for this, there was no need to include this in the Bill, moved by Shri Basu Deb Achariaji. In Article 41 of the constitution, it has been stated that:—

"That state shall, within the limits of its economic capacity and development, make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to public assistance in cases of unemployment, old age, sickness and disablement, and in other cases of undeserved want".

This is the obligation, that has been imposed on the Government. The State Government and the Central Government have opened Employment exchanges to provide employment with and within the economic resources available with them and their limitations. We have to enquire from the Employment Exchanges as to how many people have been provided with the employment during the last one year. The names of number of people continue to stand registered for years with employment exchanges for want of good jobs. New jobs are like "a drop in the ocean". That is why it has been provided that the State will make efforts to provide employment and education to the people. The Government are also making efforts to provide assistance to old and handicapped people in case there is no bread-earners for them. Pension is being paid to the widows in the villages to provide social security to them. Pension amounting to Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 per month is being paid to aged persons above 65 years. Every Government has made effort to this effect at their level. If a person meets untimely-death, while working in a field or while doing electrician's jobs, then the compensation is provided to his dependents. Even in the case, a person dies in road accident, compensation is provided to his family members. The Government is making its all out efforts in this direction within the economic resources available with it, however the desired efforts are yet to be made. If we simply make allegations and counter allegations against each other and do not introspect then it would prove to be futile.

Hon. Basudeb Achariaji has left the House. When I went to Calcutta for the first time, I saw the cart being pulled by the human beings, which is drawn by horses in our area. However I saw the human pulling the cart there while the other was enjoying the ride on the cart. That is not the rickshaw or a taunga rather a man pulls it. It has been more than 30 years of Communist rule in Bengal but they have failed to change the system. One man sits and commits a kind of atrocity by enjoying a ride while the other man is pulling it. Thousands of homeless people sleep at the pavements at night in Calcutta. A poet has written quite apply:

"Shvano ko mita doodh, bhooke he balak akulate hain,
Maan ki chhati se chipak, sisak-sisak rah jatte hain".

I saw the same situation prevailing over there. Whether it is Bengal, Rajasthan, Assam or elsewhere and whichever party is in the power, poverty prevails everywhere. It serves no purpose to claim that a particular

state is not in the grip of poverty and rather it is prevalent elsewhere and it is also useless to boast of any efforts being made in that regard. Why is such a situation prevailing despite making so much efforts and the situation remains unchanged. It has to be given a thought. Hence, I am of the opinion that in principle everybody should get social justice and social security. Hon. Basudeb Achariaji has widened the ambit of the term social security. He has himself written that 21(b) would be incorporated in the constitution. All the citizens will have the right to social security. It also mentions that if this becomes an Act, the Government should enact such a law which would ensure social security for all the citizens.

We know that there are unorganised labourers in our society. There are labourers working in fields and child labourers working in hotels and other such places. All this is happening before us. There are old people ailing people widows, destitutes and unemployed youth who need to be provided with the basic facilities. The unemployed should get unemployment allowance. I had visited France to participate in a UNESCO Conference representing the Government of India three to four years ago. There was a huge ground on the way to the venue of the UNESCO Conference where thousand of youth were gathered. I tried to inquire the purpose of their gathering. France is a very progressive and prosperous country. I was told that they were demanding for an increase in the unemployment allowance. I asked as to how much did they get presently. I was told that each youth get 250 francs per month and still they were demanding to increase the amount. Exchange value of frank is rupee five. If we multiply it with Rs. 250 it would work out to be a huge amount in terms of rupee. Despite they are demanding for increasing the allowance money. The prosperous or a developed countries can afford to pay unemployment allowance. The NDA Government had mulled over this possibility quite sincerely. I hope that this successive Government would carry forward this line of thought and the unemployed youth would certainly be given unemployment allowance. There is a provision for providing unemployment allowance under it. The persons crossing the age of 60 and devoid of any sources of income should get pension and medical facilities. Similarly the handicapped persons should get disability allowance and they should be covered under health insurance. Nobody would refuse this fact.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for this subject is over. If the House agrees, we may extend the time by half-an-hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So the time is extended.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hence I am of the view that the real objective of this Constitution Amendment Bill is to provide social security. Government of day may belong to any party or ideology but it would certainly give priority to social security. It is our duty in society—“Bhookha Pyasa Para Parosi, Tune Roti khayi kya, sabse pehle puchkar bhojan ko too khaya kar”. It is the basic tenet of our culture and similarly one prayer:

“Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya,

Sarve Bhadrani Pashyanthu, Ma Kaschid Dukh Bhagbhavet.”

It means that the Lord Almighty is being prayed to do the welfare of all and extend his mercy and bounty for all and also to make everyone free from illness. May everyone become happy is implied in it. Similarly it is also prayed that the God may strengthen one to help the suffering people. It is also said in these lines—

“Kabir Soi peer Hai jo Jane par Peer,

Jo par peer na Jaanlha so Kafir Bepeer.”

Hence a true saint is one who understands and helps to alleviate the suffering of others. Therefore, it has been said—

“Parhit saris dharam nahin bhai, par peera sam nahin adhami.”

There is no greater benevolence or ‘Dharma’ than the welfare of others and no greater sin than torturing others. It is the underlying message of our culture. Hence taking inspiration from our culture, we should strive for carrying such a system which would ensure that no one is hungry, unclothed or unemployed. We should try to ensure that every person gets employment and every field gets water and every worker gets support and assistance.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT ‘BACHDA’ (Almora): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that I am the last person to speak as the House will adjourn at six O’clock.

[Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda']

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Basudeb Achariaji has presented this Bill to amend Article 21 and I understand that irrespective of the consent of the state, it is proposed to bring the elements of the Directive Principles of State Policy mentioned and or article 41 under Fundamental Rights. Almost all the speakers do agree with his views. In a welfare state it is certainly desirable for the state to have concern for the social security of its citizens whether it be the help of the elderly, widows or providing employment to unemployed youth and other social obligations. Hon. Member from Kerala gave some very good examples about different regions of Kerala. We may have ideological differences and a state may be ruled by a particular party and the party at the Centre may be another one but the fact would remain a fact. The basic theme which he reflected was that the level and percentage of these was quite high and given the awareness in public consensus and political will and public mobilisation, population growth rate was controlled to a great extent. Secondly the issue of healthcare was raised and it was a very good issue. Further employment and other issues and the related problems were also raised. It seems that the globalisation introduced in 1992 has both its negative as well as positive impact in this regard. As I have been a part of the NDA Government in the next six and a half years and it is true that unless we are capable at the international level and our indigenous technology is upgraded to become competitive in this age of globalisation which requires cost competitiveness and quick delivery though there are many difficulties before the country that are having old technology, one products will not get hold in the market. Hence the coconut industry and tiles industry mentioned by him face these difficulties. However, one Government is replaced by another and the baton is passed on from one to another as is done in relay race. This is the bounden duty of the following runner. The forward movement has to be maintained for success. The present UPA Government has adopted some of the policies of the previous Government in toto. One of them is Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I am mentioning it even though it may sound a bit out of place but under this scheme lakhs of persons are getting employment. It has two advantages, firstly it would improve the traffic in the country and secondly the rural areas would be connected to the urban areas. Everybody wants that this work gets accelerated. Presently it is the moral duty of this Government that it should completed this scheme within prescribed time and expedite it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some very good decisions were taken during the NDA Government in the fields of social security and some of them were mentioned by Shri Rasa Singh Rawat. I have information about some of them. For instance, there are approximately 7.5 lakh female Aanganwadi workers in the country. Their honorarium was doubled during the regime of the previous Government. They were not covered under insurance. They were provided an insurance cover of Rs. 50 thousand. Under Health Insurance Scheme an insurance cover of Rs. 30 thousand was provided to poors in lieu of payment of premium of one and half a lakh rupees so that they may get money for their treatment. This provision was made during the regime of previous Government.

Sir, a mention was made of farmers. Provision to increase was ensured. Crop insurance scheme has also been implemented. Farmers have benefitted from it. It is true that at some of the places farmers could not get its benefits owing to higher cost of agricultural production and they were forced to commit suicide. There is a need to seriously ponder over as to how its shortcomings can be removed. There is no doubt that the farmers have benefitted from the crop insurance scheme.

Sir, a unique Kisan Credit Card scheme to provide easy loans to farmers have been given credit cards under the scheme. Only few farmers are left to whom these cards are yet to be given. I have the information that the present Government has taken steps to achieve the target in regard to the scheme. Today the farmers having credit cards can easily avail loans.

Sir, right now Basu Deb Achariaji has mentioned about the weavers repeatedly. Previous Government understood the difficulties of the weavers and it also started a weaver Credit Card Scheme. On this occasion, I would like to state that I hail from Uttaranchal where the construction work is main occupation of the people and they are engaged in it locally they are known as 'artisans'. Most of them are masons. Some are engaged as carpenter but their economic condition is very deplorable. They don't get the loan easily. Similarly, the ironsmiths also don't get the credit easily when they need it. I would like to request the Government to start a Shilpkar Credit Card Scheme and Weaver Credit Card Scheme so that the artisans of the hilly areas may get social security and economic assistance.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rawat, you may conclude your speech today or you may have it on the next Private Members' day. It is because the House will adjourn now and the discussion can be had on the next Private Members' day.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Alright, I will resume my speech on the next working day.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 6th December, 2004.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 6, 2004/Agrahayana 15, 1926 (Saka)

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	60,
2.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	46,
3.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	43,
4.	Prof. Chander Kumar	47,
5.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	46,
6.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	44,
7.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	47,
8.	Shri Deora, Milind	42,
9.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	54,
10.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	41,
11.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	44,
12.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	49,
13.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	56,
14.	Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	51,
15.	Shri Nishad, Mahendra Prasad	53,
16.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	49,
17.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	42,
18.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	51,
19.	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	48,
20.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	52,
21.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	43,
22.	Shri Patil, Raosaheb Danve	55,
23.	Shri Pingle, Shrinivas Dadasaheb	41,
24.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	57,
25.	Shri Rajendran, P.	59,
26.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	52,
27.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	57,
28.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	45,

1	2	3
29.	Shri Singh, Suraj	55,
30.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	50,
31.	Shrimati Sujatha, C.S.	58,
32.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	58,
33.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	53.

Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	629,
2.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	467, 583,
3.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	535, 669,
4.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	507, 542, 592, 621,
5.	Shri Angadi, Suresh	559, 644,
6.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	488, 516,
7.	Shri Baitha, Kailash	688,
8.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	514, 579, 612, 626, 635,
9.	Shri Barman, Hiten	485, 643,
10.	Shri Barman, Ranen	640,
11.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	485,
12.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	517,
13.	Shri Bhargava, Girdhari Lal	531,
14.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	474, 550, 599,
15.	Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	473, 557, 612,
16.	Shri Chkarabarty, Ajoy	484, 561,
17.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	562, 630,
18.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	462, 541, 602, 622, 631,

1	2	3
19.	Prof. Chander Kumar	540, 564, 615,
20.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	476, 556, 597,
21.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	490, 543, 568, 596,
22.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	650,
23.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	649,
24.	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	482,
25.	Shri Chowdhary, Pankaj	647, 665, 686,
26.	Shri Chowhdury, Adhir	539, 591, 619, 629,
27.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	548, 597, 620, 630,
28.	Shri Deora, Milind	656, 657,
29.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	612,
30.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	519, 582, 672, 685,
31.	Gaikwad, Eknath M.	490,
32.	Shrimati Gandhi, Maneka	473,
33.	Shri Gangwar, Santosh	473, 515, 580, 613,
34.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	543, 560,
35.	Shri Gowda, D.V. Sadananda	640,
36.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	500, 631,
37.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	594, 623,
38.	Shrimati Jayaprada	524,
39.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	525, 629,
40.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	534, 552, 564, 588, 614,
41.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	473,
42.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	513, 664,
43.	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	582,

1	2	3
44.	Kanodia, Mahesh	661,
45.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	522, 552, 667,
46.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	637,
47.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	529, 569, 640, 653,
48.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	544, 593, 618, 628,
49.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	502, 528, 533, 553,
50.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	629,
51.	Shri Kumar, Nitish	473, 659, 665,
52.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	471, 572,
53.	Shri Kurup, Suresh	506,
54.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	473, 512, 578, 611, 684,
55.	Shri Lonappan, Nambadan	505,
56.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	468,
57.	Shrimati Madhavaraj, Manorama	473, 521, 583,
58.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	596, 612, 623,
59.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	496, 567, 569,
60.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	616, 641, 658,
61.	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	498, 569, 624, 633, 648,
62.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	473, 477, 488, 558,
63.	Shri Marandi, Sudam	533,
64.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	461, 537, 590, 617, 627,

1	2	3
65.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	549, 630,
66.	Shri Mehta, Bhubenshwar Prasad	493,
67.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	554, 601,
68.	Shri Mistry, Madhusudan	636,
69.	Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	473, 563,
70.	Shri Mohan, P.	508, 574,
71.	Shri Mohd., Mukeem	549,
72.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	466,
73.	Shri Moorthy, A.K.	508,
74.	Shri Munshi Ram	480, 520, 666, 678, 686,
75.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	481, 559,
76.	Shri Nair, P.K. Vasudevan	476, 548, 556,
77.	Shrimati Narhire, (Saw.) Kalpana Rames	612,
78.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	464, 496, 563, 577, 674,
79.	Shri Nishad, Mahendra Prasad	552, 673,
80.	Shri Oram, Jual	503, 571, 608, 682, 688,
81.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	504, 563, 629, 662,
82.	Shri Pal, Rajaram	673,
83.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	497, 654,
84.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	553, 623,
85.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	499, 515,
86.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	549, 598, 681,
87.	Shri Paswan, Ram Chandra	475, 687,
88.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	551, 600,
89.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	545, 594,

1	2	3
90.	Shri Patil, Prakash Bapu V.	495, 652, 675,
91.	Shri Patil, Raosaheb Danve	473, 661, 675,
92.	Shri Patil, Shrinivas Dadasheb	538,
93.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	473, 555, 596,
94.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	638,
95.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	473, 514, 638, 661, 676,
96.	Shrimati Purandeswari, D.	511, 589,
97.	Shri Radhakrishnan, Varkala	642,
98.	Shri Rajender Kumar	473, 532, 587,
99.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	470,
100.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	478, 557, 603, 655,
101.	Shri Rao, K.S.	498, 569, 607, 633, 671,
102.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	497, 568, 606, 687, 689,
103.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	489, 565, 588, 604,
104.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	485, 490, 555, 568,
105.	Shri Rawale, Mohan	501, 573, 585,
106.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	501, 645, 663, 671,
107.	Prof. Rawat, Rasa Singh	473, 501,
108.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	526, 563, 567, 668, 680,
109.	Shri Reddy, M. Raja Mohan	465, 473, 586,

1	2	3
110.	Shri Reddy, N. Janaradhana	629,
111.	Shri Reddy, S.P.Y.	639, 660,
112.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	548,
113.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	518, 552,
114.	Shri Rijju, Khiren	632,
115.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	469, 569, 638, 688,
116.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	509, 575, 610, 625, 634,
117.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	485,
118.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	530,
119.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	483, 560, 603, 630,
120.	Shrimati Sen, Minati	485,
121.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	479, 558,
122.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	472, 546, 640,
123.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	539, 591,
124.	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	615,
125.	Shri Shivajirao Adhalrao Patil	507, 559, 573, 609, 683,
126.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	473, 480, 581, 677,
127.	Shri Sidhu, Navjot Singh	485, 564, 487,
128.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	473, 508, 612,
129.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	494,
130.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	491, 566, 605,
131.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	536, 589, 616, 618,
132.	Shri Singh, Mohan	520, 619,
133.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	547, 595, 629, 661,
134.	Shri Singh, Sitaram	563, 603, 650,

1	2	3
135.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	485, 488,
136.	Shri Singh, Suraj	473, 552, 553,
137.	Shri Singh, Uday	619, 629, 651,
138.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	492, 659,
139.	Shri Solanki, Bharatsinh Madhavsi	486,
140.	Shri Subba, M.K.	463, 485,
141.	Shrimati Sujatha, C.S.	687,
142.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	473, 524, 650, 665,
143.	Shri Surendran, Chengara	476, 556,
144.	Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.	473, 640, 646,
145.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	473, 576,
146.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	502, 570,
147.	Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani	499,
148.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	523, 548, 553, 584, 679,
149.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	560,
150.	Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	557, 658,
151.	Shri Verma, Bhanu Pratap Singh	527, 563,
152.	Shri Yadav, Anjan Kumar M.	552,
153.	Shri Yadav, Baleshwar	473, 499, 670,
154.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	518, 580, 603, 655, 661,
155.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	480, 687,
156.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	633,
157.	Shri Yadav, Ramakant	475, 501, 552, 687,
158.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	510, 601, 620,
159.	Shri Yogi, Aditya Nath	563, 616,
160.	Shri Zahedi, Mahboob	687,

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions

<i>Commerce and Industry</i>	45, 53, 54, 58, 59, 60
<i>Company Affairs</i>	52
<i>Finance</i>	43, 44, 47, 48, 55, 56, 57
<i>Law and Justice</i>	
<i>Rural Development</i>	41, 42, 46, 51
<i>Textiles</i>	49, 50.

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

<i>Commerce and Industry</i>	463, 470, 475, 478, 485, 486, 496, 498, 505, 509, 510, 511, 515, 516, 517, 526, 539, 556, 557, 558, 571, 575, 576, 577, 580, 586, 589, 591, 598, 605, 606, 614, 618, 623, 631, 632, 634,
<i>Company Affairs</i>	549, 641, 671, 673,
<i>Finance</i>	461, 462, 465, 466, 467, 468, 471, 474, 476, 477, 479, 480, 483, 487, 495, 497, 500, 502, 504, 507, 512, 518, 519, 521, 522, 523, 528, 531, 532, 534, 535, 536, 537, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 553, 554, 560, 562, 564, 570, 572, 581, 582, 584, 590, 592, 593, 594, 597, 599, 600, 601, 607, 608, 609, 610, 613, 617, 619, 621, 625, 626, 627, 629, 630, 633, 635, 636, 637, 639, 643, 644, 647, 648, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 672, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 685, 686, 688, 689,
<i>Law and Justice</i>	464, 484, 501, 506, 508, 520, 525, 529, 538, 540, 550, 551, 552, 559, 573, 574, 583, 602, 603, 622, 624,
<i>Rural Development</i>	469, 473, 481, 488, 491, 492, 493, 513, 514, 527, 563, 568, 569, 578, 612, 615, 638, 640, 642, 646, 655, 674, 687,
<i>Textiles</i>	472, 482, 489, 490, 499, 503, 524, 530, 533, 541, 555, 561, 565, 566, 567, 579, 585, 587, 588, 595, 596, 604, 611, 616, 620, 628, 645, 649, 684.

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