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Friday, August 16, 1985
Sravana 25, 1907 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 16, 1985]
Sravana 25, 1907 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Ban on recruitment in Government Offices

*347. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

whether the ban on fresh recruitment
of Central Government employees has led
to shortage and over burdening of the exist-
ing staff in Government offices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : As a part
of anti-inflationary measures, Ministries/
Departments of the Government of India
were advised in January, 1984 not to fill
up existing vacancies (operational or non-
operational) except where recruitment
action had already been taken. Exemptions
have been allowed in a few selective cases
like appointment of dependants of deceased
employees on compassionate grounds and
handicapped persons, redeployment of
personnel surplus to one organisation in
another, regularisation of casual labourers
against Group 'D' vacancies, filling up of
vacancies purely by promotion etc. Propo-
sals for filling up of other types of vacan-
cies are, however, considered on the
merits of each case taking into account the
operational efficiency of the organisation.
Care is taken to ensure that the efficient
and smooth functioning of a Government

Department or organisation is not affected
due to non-filling up of vacancies.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Mr.
Speaker, Sir, the last part of my question
has not been replied to. I had asked
whether burden of work on the existing
employees had increased tremendously ?
He has not replied to it. Unemployment is
a serious problem in our country. The
Central Government have formulated a
policy to enter the 21st century. Do we
want to enter that century by increasing
the number of unemployed ? It means that
the present Government want to contain
inflation by increasing poverty. It appears
to me that Government do not think by
standing on its feet, instead they think by
standing, upside down.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sheershason is good
for the brain...(Interruptions)

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : Every thing is
topsyturvy.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
Even the Government accept that the pub-
lic sector is the main institution to offer
employment. By imposing such a ban, not
only new appointments are banned but
vacancies which occur due to retirement of
many employees are also not filled up. I
want to know from the hon. Minister how
many employees have retired since this ban
was imposed; and whether appointments
have been made on the resultant vacancies?
The Railways and the P & T Department
are the worst sufferers of this ban and, I
think, with the imposition of ban on recruit-
ment, the work load on all the Depart-
ments has increased tremendously. The
only thing I want to know from you is that
whether complaints have been received from
different departments ever since this ban
on recruitment was imposed that it was
telling upon the efficiency of the employees

and the workload on the workers had increased. Besides, I also want to know how many employees have retired since this ban was imposed ?

MR. SPEAKER : You have started delivering a lecture.....

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : All right, you answer the question which I have asked.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : Sir, it appears that the hon. Member has put the question upside down and I shall try to make it straight.

MR. SPEAKER : Does it appear or...

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I want to tell the hon. Member that the word 'ban' is somewhat confusing, because it is not a total ban; the only thing is that the permission for recruitment is now given at the cabinet level on the basis of merit, and thus, only the level of the authority giving the permission has been raised. Now such a decision is taken at the cabinet level and all deserving proposals are accorded approval. Therefore, it is not that this ban has resulted in total stoppage of work. Only the level of permission has been raised. So far as the number of employers who have retired is concerned, I do not have the figures at the moment; these can be presented later on. As regards the third supplementary whether it has affected the efficiency or whether workload has increased, I would say that since permission is granted in justified cases, I do not think; it has resulted in fall in efficiency or increase in workload.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : I am not satisfied with your reply. It is true that examinations have been conducted in many Departments like the Railways, but their results have not been declared due to this ban. I would, therefore like to know whether Government would consider lifting this ban in view of the difficult condition it has caused leading to increase in unemployment ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I do not have information about

the examination in the Railways and orders to the effect that permission may be given at the Cabinet level have been issued. There is no proposal at the moment to change it.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM : Sir, will the hon. Finance Minister kindly consider that unless a post is abolished, it is to be presumed that there is need to continue it. If it is needed and not filled in, either the work will suffer or some other employee is over-burdened. So, in view of this, will it not be preferable to reduce unnecessary Government work which will eliminate the need for posts as are needed.

Discontinuation of the TV and Radio licences has resulted in reduction of hundreds of posts of clerks while providing so much convenience to the public. Will the Government consider some more measures of this kind, so that economy is achieved by eliminating the need for staff attending to such work ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If income tax is abolished, there will be no need for tax collectors;

PROF. N. G. RANGA : For once there is a constructive suggestion for economy, Sir !

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, we are making a detailed exercise for effecting economies in Government spending wherever they are necessary.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : Sir, the Minister said that it is not banned. But then cabinetisation of recruitment has really created adverse effect on the unemployed youth of our country and taking this as the plea or reason the private sectors are also not making new recruitment and they are going for computerisation. That is an anti-labour move and not necessary at all. In view of this, whether you will consider to lift the ban ? Those who have lost one or a half valuable years and could not apply for the job, may be over-aged now. Whether you will relax their age limit to that extent as they are losing by this ban ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : There is no total cabinetisation. In cases of compassionate grounds where there is a need to give employment to the son or wife or daughter of the deceased or to give employment to a handicapped person or where there is a need for deployment of surplus staff or regularisation of casual labour or purely by promotion it has to be filled or there is a need of filling up by transfer or by deputation, there is no cabinetisation. It is done at the local level. As such I do not call it a ban. On merits we do consider.

About the private sector and computerisation I do not know how do they arise here.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is nothing much in it. We need industrialisation to create more job opportunities.

Proposal to reduce excise duty on partially oriented yarn

*349. **SHRI SOM NATH RATH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to reduce excise duty on partially oriented yarn (POY) with a view to including competition among the polyester manufacturers to produce yarns near international prices;

(b) whether Government are also considering to waive the anti-dumping duty on polyester filament yarn (PFY) and partially oriented yarn (POY); and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Reduction of excise duty on polyester filament yarn (including partially oriented yarn) is relevant for reduction of

the selling price of fabrics and not reduction of the cost of production which depends on a number of factors like economy of scale, capital and raw material costs, energy costs etc. Therefore, the question of inducing indigenous manufacturers to produce polyester filament yarn at or near international prices through reduction of excise duty at filament yarn stage does not arise.

(b) and (c) "Anti dumping duty" is leviable by virtue of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. This Section, however, is yet to come into force, and as such, the question of removing the "anti dumping duty" on polyester filament yarn (including partially oriented yarn) does not arise. However, if the reference is to import duty in general on polyester filament yarn, the question of fiscal relief in respect of the textile industry is under examination, details of which it is not possible to disclose at this stage.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the price of yarn in the international market and what is the price of indigenous yarn ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The international price of POY is about Rs. 20 to 25 per kg and in India it would cost without any excise duty around Rs.80 per kg.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : My question is : whether the excise duty would be waived. From the answer of the hon. Minister, it is clear that without excise duty the indigenous yarn costs much higher than the international price of imported yarn. As such, will the Minister take steps to see that the indigenous yarn price is at least on par with the international prices ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The landed cost is about Rs. 175 per kg as against the indigenous selling price of Rs. 182-184. So it is a very small difference.

SHRI SOM NATH RATH : That is the reason why I ask the excise duty should

be waived. That is my very question. My question is : since it is higher, will the Government waive the excise duty on the indigenous yarn to make it on par with the imported yarn ?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The differential is very small. Rs. 175 is the landed cost of imported yarn and Rs. 180 is the indigenous selling price. There is a small differential for the protection of the indigenous industry. It is not an unfair protection.

MR. SPEAKER : One aspect we have to consider. That is whether it is going to have any negative sort of effect on the cotton growers. That should be taken into account.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We are all concerned about cotton growers and particularly, with you in the Chair, we cannot neglect the farmer. There are alternatives for the cotton growers. The export market is good and always there is pressure for yarn.

MR. SPEAKER : We have got an abundance of it.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You do not purchase it

Issue of licenses for export of human skeletons

*350 **SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :**
SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in the country who have been issued licences for the export of human skeletons;

(b) the names of States to which these licence holders belong;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that skulls of children have been exported to various countries from Bihar; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and the action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A total of 13 firms, all in Calcutta (West Bengal) were granted licences during 1984-85 to export human skeletons and parts thereof.

(c) and (d) No specific instances have come to notice. There are, adequate safeguards to regulate export of this item. The State Governments concerned have also been advised to ensure that there are no malpractices in this respect.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not convinced with the reply given by the hon. Minister. Sir, you might be aware that there is large scale export of human skeletons from India, especially from Calcutta and Bihar. These exporters of human skeletons export about 50,000 human skeletons every year.

The hon. Minister has replied about Bihar. Only in July last the police have taken into custody one Shri Mullick—The kingpin of this racket alongwith four boxes of human skeletons from Government Hospital compound and Mandiri Road Mohalla in Patna city. About 15,000 children have disappeared from Patna and other cities of Bihar during the last 5 years.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government of Shrimati Indira Gandhi had imposed a ban on the export of human skeletons in 1976 saying that the honour of the country was more important than the foreign exchange earnings ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : It is a fact that in 1976 when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and the Congress was in power, a ban was imposed on it. The Janata Government lifted the ban in 1977 again. Still, with a view to allaying whatever little apprehension is there, the State Governments and the Home Ministry have been asked to order investigations even if there has been a single incident. Now

we have once again decided to impose a ban on such exports

[*English*]

Cotton Production in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether the production of cotton in Maharashtra has been very good this year :

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to permit the Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation to export at least three lakh bales since the Maharashtra cotton is gaining foreign market and restricted supply will stop the growth of foreign market and consequent inflow of foreign exchange;

(c) whether the above request has been acceded to and;

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) According to assessment made by the Cotton Advisory Board, the production of cotton in Maharashtra is estimated at 17.05 lakh bales during the current cotton year (1984-85), which is higher than the production in the previous year.

(b) to (d) During the current cotton season, the State Government of Maharashtra had requested for release of a quantity of 3 to 4 lakh bales of staple cotton for export. The Government of India have so far released 2.95 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton for export during the current cotton season. Out of this quantity, a 0.95 lakh bales have been allowed for export from Maharashtra.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : The hon. Ministers has not made any

mention of the foreign exchange in his reply. The production of cotton in Maharashtra is continuously increasing and the Government continue to export it, but in the absence of a long term policy, we do not always get a remunerative price in the international market and no country comes forward for an agreement. Keeping this in view, is there any proposal under the consideration of Government to evolve a long term policy for cotton export so as to earn foreign exchange ? In there any proposal to frame a policy for the next five years ? If not, the reasons therefor and the amount of foreign exchange we earned last year through cotton exports ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH: The suggestion of the hon. Member that there should be a long term export policy is good. But the difficulty in it is that to what extent the export should be done can be decided after making an assessment of the internal demand and availability. It is necessary to see how much is the production in the country.

In order to evolve a long term policy, we must strive for maintaining a balance between the production and internal requirement. These are the only principles which are followed by us to regulate its exports.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : How much foreign exchange have we earned ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : I am unable to give details of foreign exchange.

MR. SPEAKER : He will let you know.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : But we know that we are exporting 3 lakh bales this year too and we are still considering whether this quantity can be raised further or not ?

MR. SPEAKER : Still, there are 7 lakh bales surplus with us.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Maharashtra has sought permission to export 3 to 4 lakh bales. So far you

have allowed export of 0.95 lakh bales. Are you raising it or not ?

We are importing short staple cotton; and in spite of increase in the long staple cotton production, we have not been able to take a decision about consumption and production. Therefore, I want to know the time by which we shall be able to decide it so as to provide relief to the farmers ? As at present, the farmers get a very low price. The Central Government do give money to the Cotton Corporation, but the latter does not purchase cotton.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a provision to export about one lakh cotton bales from Maharashtra was made and we are considering by how much this quantity can be raised further. Secondly, the varietal imbalance still continues and efforts are being made to remove it. We hope to remove the present varietal imbalance in the coming few years by effecting coordination between production and export policies.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : May I know whether Government have come to know that large stocks of cotton, unsold cotton, are still there with the farmers in Andhra Pradesh and also in the areas bordering Maharashtra and the Cotton Corporation is not functioning effectively or as frequently as they should ? They don't get into the market although Government has allowed 2-1/2 lakh bales for export. Nobody mobilised the available cotton and then export it with the result Government's policy has not resulted in anything with all the welfare talk for farmers :

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : In Andhra Pradesh and other States where the price of cotton has fallen, we have directed the Cotton Corporation of India, and it is making purchases. We have also directed the Cotton Corporation of India to give it publicity in the local language indicating the names of places and the rate at which the purchases are being made in the regulated markets.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I would need your intervention in this question. Mr. Speaker, Sir, is it not the fact that in the existing textile policy of the Government recently modified, there is more incentive and encouragement to the man-made fibre and also synthetic fibre relegating the cotton fibre to the background ? As a result of that, do they not accept more glut in the cotton sale and if that is going to happen, which is inevitably and absolutely to happen, will they review drastically and radically the existing yarn policy or in the alternative, as Mr. Patil, has suggested, allow extra export to the cotton growers so that for the new habits that you are inculcating among the consumers, the farmers should not suffer in the country ? Will you agree with me, Sir ?

MR. SPEAKER : I think that my earlier intervention supports your question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : In anticipation of my question, you have given your directive. Please give proper answer, Mr. Minister.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : For the first part of your question, my answer is negative. The domestic requirement of cotton during the next five years is going to increase considerably.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Sir, he has not given the reply. Is it not the fact that man-made fibre and synthetic fibre are relegating the cotton fibre ? In the Western countries they are going back to the cotton garments and here they are encouraging more and more of man-made fibre.

MR. SPEAKER : I think we will not allow that.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : For the first part of the question, the reply is negative.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Though Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which produces long staple and extra-long staple cotton in very large quantities, hitherto the export opportunity was

not given and only this year about 70,000 bales of cotton for export are permitted. In view of the good crop season this year, will the Government take a decision to give an opportunity to the Andhra Pradesh Markfed for export of one lakh more bales of cotton this year ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : Sir, we are aware that Andhra Pradesh is producing long and extra-long staple cotton. The Andhra Pradesh Federation has not got adequate infrastructure for exports. We are, therefore, gearing up the Cotton Corporation of India to the requirements of Andhra Pradesh and Cotton Corporation of India has made purchases from Andhra Pradesh and exports also from Andhra Pradesh.

MR. SPEAKER : But it should not be a monopoly.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE : While appreciating the very sympathetic attitude of the hon. Minister towards the farmers, I would like to ask whether there is a long standing demand for export of cotton from India. But at the same time, there are suggestions from the Textile Ministry of importing some short staple cotton in India. In the past, it has been our experience that we had imported the cotton, but ultimately we could not utilise it and it had to be re-exported. In the light of that experience, will the Government kindly consider to allow as much export of cotton as possible.

Secondly, in view of the fact that 80 per cent of farmers in the country are dry land farmers, will the Government take initiative to have some coordinated policy towards the cotton growers particularly of dry land farming and have coordination between the Ministries of Finance, Planning, Textile, Commerce and Agriculture ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : I have explained it earlier also on the floor of the House that there is a varietal imbalance in so far as the availability of cotton is concerned. We have, according to the latest estimate of the Cotton Advisory Board a shortage of .84 lakh bales in short staple, a shortage of 1.56 lakh bales in medium staple and a surplus of 4.72

lakh bales in the long and extra long staple varieties of cotton. It has, therefore, become imperative for us to make limited imports of varieties which are in short supply at the moment. We have assured our friends here that we shall be using imported cotton through the market only when there is a disturbing price trend of that particular variety, otherwise we will keep it as a buffer stock and try to see that the interests of the cotton growers are not affected in any way.

As far as the coordination between the various Ministries is concerned, that exists and we are trying to improve upon it as far as possible.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Monopoly Procurement Scheme is operating in Maharashtra alone and it has been quite successful and beneficial. This year, the production of cotton has been of the order of one crore bales and the cotton corporation is not finding market of its cotton. You have imported one lakh bales from Pakistan to build buffer stock. Therefore, my question is whether the corporation would consider building buffer stock, and saving farmers by purchasing cotton at the export price ? If it purchases 5 lakh bales, our farmers would be saved from the loss they are otherwise going to suffer. You are not going to lose anything by doing so. It will also not affect the import-export policy. Therefore, in the year of bumper or good crop, building of buffer stock is a must. You cannot estimate as yet whether we shall be having a crop of more than one crore bales next year. Therefore, Government must build a buffer stock. We have cotton with the cotton corporation and the Central Government should come forward at such a juncture. If it purchases 5 lakh bales from them, the farmers would be greatly benefited. The farmers are in a distress right now and the corporation is unable to give them benefits. The Central Government should come forward to share this burden. Therefore, will you consider purchasing cotton through the cotton corporation to build a buffer stock ?

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the total availability is

not going to be improved by purchasing the available cotton and building a buffer stock. Since the domestic availability is limited, imports are made to fill up the gap. Building buffer stock by making purchases from the domestic federation itself is not going to yield any benefit. By taking into account the domestic availability of cotton, the quantum of imports is assessed and, as such, this policy is not going to be beneficial. The Cotton Corporation of India enters the market for minimum support price operations and the Government is vigilant to see that there is no fall in the prices and the farmers are not forced to resort to distress sale.

MR. SPEAKER : If this monopoly scheme is successful in Maharashtra, it can be extended to other States as well.

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH : It is for the States to consider to what extent they can do it keeping in view the interests of cotton growers.

[English]

**Exports made by STC rejected by
foreign countries**

*352 **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases where the exports made by the State Trading Corporation have been rejected by the foreign countries during the last three years giving yearly statistics of number of cases with items exported and amount of loss suffered in each such transaction with reasons for rejection;

(b) whether any one has been held responsible for the lapse which caused loss and earned disrespect to the country; and

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to streamline the working to avoid such lapses in future ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
(SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :** (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) During the last 3 years quality claims/rejections of exports handled by STC have been received in the case of twenty two consignments. Items exported in these cases are Leather, Leather products, Mango pulp, Cardamom, Basmati Rice, Chilled & Frozed mutton cubes and ready-made Garments. In twenty of these cases the amounts are the responsibility of the concerned associate supplies and STC has not suffered any loss. In 2 cases relating to Leather Garment and Readymade Garment the liability has been on STC account to the extent of Rs. 2.99 lakhs and Rs. 1.63 lakhs respectively.

(b) Inquiries into defective supplies on STC account have been initiated in one case and action will be possible after the inquiry is completed. In the other cases in which STC suffered loss, though it was felt that STC had a good case to contest the claim, it was decided to write-off this amount of Rs. 1.63 lakhs as much more would have been spent in litigation.

(c) Guidelines exist for exercising quality control by the corporation for all its exports.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether it is my fortune or misfortune that whenever my question comes, only a "written statement" is given in reply thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : They consider you educated.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You have stated in the reply that there were 22 cases in all, but you have not stated the year to which they relate. On the 6th March, 1985, the chairman of your STC, Shri Premchand Luthra, entered into an agreement with the Municipality of Abu Dhabi for the supply of 10 thousand tonnes of rice. Specification of the rice to be supplied was also given in the agreement. But he failed to honour his agreement. The traders complained that they were not told about the specifications agreed to.

[English]

If STC had signed with Abu Dhabi for supplying gold, but silver is supplied, we cannot agree to it. We have been cheated. STC never showed even the samples that they would be giving to the Abu Dhabi Municipality.

[Translation]

If it had come to the knowledge of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, he would not have been spared. But he has already left. Four Chairmen of STC have changed within four years. You kindly reply to my question. On 6th March, 1985, Shri Luthra was pressurised by the Ambassador in the Ministry of External Affairs to sign the agreement and if the agreement was signed in this manner then the Ministry of External Affairs is also involved; you get it inquired into. Also please tell the time limit by which the rice was to be supplied after the agreement was signed giving reasons why you failed to supply them rice? It has harmed our reputation. Any trading organisation should maintain its goodwill. If STC loses its goodwill, it is a setback to the country. This should not happen. You also please tell us whether Director (Agriculture) Incharge was also consulted before the agreement was finalised? Were the specifications given in the agreement supplied to the Municipality of Abu Dhabi? The consignment sent by you was rejected which caused setback to the foreign trade. What action was taken by you in this regard and whether you will honour that agreement even at the cost of suffering a loss so as to maintain your reputation? If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Daga himself has given the information that the Chairman of STC has left. So far as the question of taking action is concerned, we have realised that it needs to be inquired into. The entire case of Abu Dhabi has been handed over to the C.B.I. for investigation. So far as the question of loss is concerned, since the Abu Dhabi Municipality has cancelled the agreement itself, there will not be any inquiry into the STC.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question is that your Branch Manager of Delhi and other Managers have entered into this agreement. They persuaded the traders to somehow supply the rice, but as the price of rice went up, ten thousand tonnes of rice was not supplied. I want to ask whether you will meet the demand of Abu Dhabi or not?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt that the agreement has been cancelled, but one of our teams has gone to Abu Dhabi.

[English]

Loans to educated unemployed by Nationalised Banks in Bihar

*353. **DR. G. S. RAJHANS :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the nationalised banks in Bihar are not providing loans to the educated unemployed in the State;

(b) whether the Union Government have issued necessary guidelines to the nationalised banks in the country to provide loans to the educated unemployed;

(c) if so, the details of the guidelines issued; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to provide loans to the educated unemployed in Bihar through the nationalised banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

The Reserve Bank of India have issued guidelines to nationalised banks for giving loans under the Scheme for providing Self-employment to Educated Unemployed Youth. The main features of these guidelines are as follows :—

- (i) Eligible entrepreneurs can get a composite loan not exceeding Rs. 25,000/- at an interest rate of 10% per annum in backward areas and 12% per annum in other areas;
- (ii) The beneficiaries would be eligible for receiving a capital subsidy from the Government routed through banks at 25% of the total loan amount;
- (iii) The repayment period of term loan component would be between three to seven years with a moratorium of 6-18 months;
- (iv) Banks are not to ask for collateral security or third party guarantee from borrowers. The security for the bank will be the asset created out of the bank finance.
- (v) A Task Force should be constituted at the district level for the scrutiny of the applications and for recommending the suitable ones to banks.

In order to give the scheme a more productive orientation it was stipulated from the year 1984-85 that the proportion of industrial ventures out of the total target shall not be less than 50% and that of business ventures shall not be more than 30% of the cases sanctioned.

The commercial banks have been providing loans under this scheme in the State of Bihar. The number of cases sanctioned during 1983-84 in Bihar was 14,230 involving an amount of 22,79 crores. During the year 1984-85 commercial banks have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 26.75 crores for 14806 cases in Bihar.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Sir, for a population of nearly 7 crores, of which 1/4th are educated unemployed and you are sanctioning a loan of Rs. 26.75 crores. However, may I know from the hon. Minister, on an average, how much time is taken to dispose of an application for loan ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Here, the identification of the beneficiaries is done by the task force. The representa-

tives from the District Industrial Centres and also the representatives from the banks, lead banks, and also two other banks are included. After the task force have identified the beneficiaries, the applications are being sent to the banks. The banks have to examine also, whether these projects are economically viable or not. The applications have to be disposed upto Rs. 25,000 within 14 days of the receipt of the notice of the applications.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : My second supplementary is, in how many districts, there are task forces and who are the Members of the task forces and who monitors their working ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, I have already stated, it is the representatives of the task forces who are the members. These Task Forces are working not only to oversee the functioning of these DICs. There is even an Advisory Committee also.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASS MUNSI: Sir, it is a very serious question and the answer given by the hon. Minister is not very clear.

I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister also because in these programmes, there is a serious exploitation going on of the young people. The present policy is that the young people should apply with the proposals to the DICs and the DICs should recommend the cases to the nationalised banks and the nationalised banks shall dispose of it. The Minister says that within 14 days, the cases have to be disposed of. If the District Industrial Centres receive the applications and the DIC in connivance with the bank officials indulge in foul game, they recommend selective cases with the political and other costpatronage and thereby settle with the bank management and the bank management takes not only 14 days but 14 months in a year and they ask money from the young people...

(Interruptions)

And a big racket is going on in this matter, I, therefore, would ask the Minister...*(Interruptions)*. It is clear; they are corrupt. *(Interruptions)*... He has to pay to

the DIC; he has to pay to the Manager of the bank and then get Rs. 5000/-. A big racket is going on. (*Interruptions*). My question is : will the Minister make a categorical announcement in the House, (*Interruptions*) that there would be a time-bound programme for the disposal of cases ? If it had not been done in past cases which upto the period ended on 31st March, will he take steps to have an investigation against the bank Managers or the agents who deals with those cases ? There is a racket going on.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : There are complaints like this. I have also been in the villages as their representative. (*Interruptions*) I am saying that it is so. I am not talking about Bihar. I am saying that I am aware of this problem. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Order, Order.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I am saying so. If you are in disagreement with me, then tell me. If you contradict what I am saying, then you say something.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : No, we are not contradicting. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : There is this problem. We are aware of it. I do not want to cover it up. In fact, when there was a review, we very bluntly told the Banks, Chairmen that there were genuine complaints of this nature, and that it reflected on the nature of functioning of the banks; we were very much concerned about it, and they must take steps to improve it. And about some procedure, i.e. time bound programme etc. which you are suggesting, these are for systematizing the procedure. Where these are detected, by taking firm action we hope to curb it. But I will not say that everyone is involved in it. But there is this problem. I will not deny it. We are aware of it. We are taking steps.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : Please allow a discussion under rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER : If there is time, we can allow it, because this is an important subject.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : All right; we will do it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We will allow it. Now Shrimati Usha Choudhari. Question 354.

World Bank aid for irrigation project in Maharashtra

*354. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank have provided \$ 201 million to India for irrigation project in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the extent of increase in agricultural production and availability of jobs in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Board of Directors of the International Development Association (IDA) have approved on July 16, 1985 a credit of SDRs 164.2 million equivalent to US\$ 160 million) for the Maharashtra Composite Irrigation-III Project.

(b) The Project, at full completion, is expected to increase total value of agricultural production by about Rs. 264 crores and would generate 95,000 full-time additional jobs.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vidharbha and Khandesh regions of Maharashtra comprise many hilly Adivasi areas where Kharia and Navtha Projects are pending for many years. When Shri Morarji Bhai was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, he gave priority to Ukai project of Gujarat over the claim of Maharashtra. As a result of that, our projects lagged behind. I want to ask the hon. Minister which new projects you propose to set up in Maharashtra in view of the fact that the maximum irrigation potential of Maharashtra is 35 per cent and even

half of it has not been tapped so far ? Besides, I want to know whether he will get the project I referred to completed ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as this project is concerned, sanctioning of the foreign assistance is likely to be over by the end of October. About the completion of the project, it is better that the question is directed to the concerned Ministry, as to when it is going to be completed. They may be able to give a precise answer, with exact accuracy, to the question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : I had expected a definite answer from the hon. Minister in this regard and had hoped that he would strongly recommend it, but he has not given any such reply here-

MR. SPEAKER : Hope has turned into despair.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI : You have furnished many figures about the World Bank loan and have also stated how much employment it will generate, but I would like to say that Upper Wardha Project in Vidarkha, which was scheduled to be completed during the last Five Year Plan has not been completed so far and in spite of getting assistance from the World Bank, our projects pass over from one Five Year Plan to another Five Year Plan. As a result of it, the cost of the project goes up causing loss to the crops. Delay in the completion of the project has resulted in considerable loss in Amjavati and Wardha. I want to ask whether you have ever assessed this loss ? You formulate long term plans which take long time for completion and results in a lot of loss. I want to know whether you would draw up this scheme by making fresh provisions, so that the project could be completed within the stipulated time with the assistance of the World Bank ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have already stated that the precise and

exact time cannot be given by me. As per the schedule it has to be completed by 1990. The total cost of the project is Rs. 387 crores. The amount that is provided in the year 1985-86 is Rs. 563 million, that is Rs. 50 crores; in 1986-87 it is Rs. 63.2 crores, in 1987-88 it is Rs. 89 crores, in 1988-89 it is Rs. 91 crores and so on.

MR. SPEAKER: You can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : That is why I stated that the accurate or precise date cannot be given by me. I have given the schedule.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRASHEKHAR TRIPATHI: So far we have observed that the irrigation projects, whether they are started with the World Bank aid or with our own resources, prove useless due to their non-completion within the scheduled time and the entire money spent on them is wasted and the objective of irrigation is also not achieved. Will the Government and the Ministry see to it in future and endeavour to complete the schemes within the scheduled time so that the funds are not wasted ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : There is a group which is going into the slippages in various projects to ensure that the slippages are not there in future.

New foreign markets for iron-ore export

*355. **SHRI SRIHARI RAO :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of iron-ore to some countries has now declined;

(b) if so, the names of countries to which export of iron-ore has declined of late and the reasons for the same and the details of the foreign exchange lost; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to recapture the lost market or to locate new foreign markets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Overall exports of iron ore (excluding Kudremukh concentrates) have gone up to Rs. 442.74 crores in 1984-85 and showed a growth of 15.4% in value terms and 15.2% in quantity terms as compared to 1983-84. Exports to following countries who are not our major buyers, however, declined during 1984-85 over 1983-84.

- (i) Czechoslovakia
- (ii) Bulgaria
- (iii) Dubai
- (iv) Saudi Arabia
- (v) Oman
- (vi) Turkey, and
- (vii) Malaysia.

There were Rs. 5 crores of lesser export earnings from these countries in 1984-85 as compared to 1983-84. Some of these countries are not our regular buyers of iron ore. In case of others, the export earnings declined mainly due to their internal financial problems and lack of import requirements.

(c) Constant liaison is being maintained through our embassies leading trading houses, MMTC's foreign offices as also directly with important consumers of iron ore in the world with a view to locate new markets and to exploit export possibilities in other markets.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that there is a decline in our exports of iron ore to some countries. In view of this, I want to know who the major buyers, who import our iron ore, are and what is the position of Japan? Is it the first? Or, what is its position in the order?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : If we take the export of iron ore as a whole, there is no decline. In fact, there is an increase of

15.4 per cent in terms of quantity and 15.2 per cent in terms of value. But there has been some decline in exports to some countries which are not actually our traditional importers. Their value is in small quantities. On the whole there has been an increase of a little more than 15 per cent both in quantity and value. Our major buyer is Japan. In fact, MMTC has entered into a 10-year long contract for 30 million tonnes of iron-ore which is valued at US \$ 600 million.

SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Is there any plan to import ships from Japan?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The question relates to iron-ore and not ships.

SHRI G.G. SWELL : I would like to know whether a Chinese team lead by a Minister is currently in India looking for a source to supply iron-ore in order to increase their steel production from 45 million tonnes to 90 million tonnes. I would like to know whether you had serious discussion with the Chinese team. If so, how far these discussions have progressed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : The Industry Minister from China had come and he met us. We had given our side for export of iron-ore. He had mentioned that price-wise Indian iron-ore was competitive. We are taking up further dialogue with China.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANKURAM SODI : I want to know from the hon. Minister the names of places in the country from where iron ore is supplied to foreign countries? Is it a fact that an agreement was reached with Japan for export of iron ore from Beladilla district of Madhya Pradesh and whether some cut has been effected in that agreement? Whether it is also a fact that in view of the cut so effected, there has been some decline in the export earnings from Japan and whether there is a proposal under consideration of Government to reach a new agreement with the Government of Japan?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA : The list is there in the main answer.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : When Goa became independent in 1961 we had thought that more and more iron-ore would be utilised in this country, but still it has not been done. May I ask the Government whether the Ministry of Commerce in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry has got any scheme to utilise more and more iron-ore indigenously so that export is not done to that extent and iron-ore is available in the country ?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : Our annual production in the country is 38 to 40 million tonnes. And the steel plants that we have in the country can consume only 16 to 17 million tonnes. Therefore, the iron-ore which is not being consumed by the indigenous industry is exported.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Is the MMTC not purchasing iron-ore which has got Fe content of more than 58 per cent and very less silica content ? Due to difficulty in exporting iron-ore from Paradip, will the Ministry channelise its export of iron-ore from some other port in Orissa ? Has he received any proposal from South Africa regarding which Mr. Vasant Sathe was telling the other day ? People are very much interested to know about that proposal. Will the Government purchase iron-ore from Keonjar which is the Rhur of India where all types of minerals with higher contents of basic raw materials are preserved ?

So, I would like to know whether he has got some substantial proposal or not.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA : In fact, our exports from Paradeep Port have increased. In 1983-84 we exported to the tune of 16.29 million tonnes and in 1984-85 to the tune of 19.81 million tonnes.

As far as the Paradeep Port is concerned, we have a problem there. It can carry only ships of 55,000 DWT. There is a proposal from South Korea to deepen it to accommodate ships of about 2,00,000 DWT. This matter is being processed by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport.

Misutilisation of Banks funds under I.R.D.P.

356 PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI
SHAKTAWAT :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether misutilisation of bank funds is reported in several areas of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P.);

(b) whether the reasons given for the misuse are defective identification of beneficiaries, wrong design of schemes and misjudgement of their viability; and

(c) if so, the steps Government are considering to solve the problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below :

Statement

Studies conducted to evaluate the performance of Integrated Rural Development Programme have revealed quite a few shortcomings responsible for improper utilisation of bank funds. The major deficiencies brought out are lack of coordination among various departments and agencies, lack of infrastructure and marketing linkages, wrong design of schemes, faulty appraisal of projects, defective identification of beneficiaries and inadequate supervision.

The shortcomings have been brought to the notice of the respective State Governments for taking corrective steps.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Hon. Speaker, Sir, from the reply given by the hon. Minister, it is undoubtedly clear that we have not been able to achieve the objective with which I.R.D.P. was started and the hon. Minister has himself admitted a number of shortcomings in this programme. I want to know from the hon. Minister how much

money has been misutilised under the I.R.D.P., who are the authorities responsible for it and what action is being taken against them. The second supplementary that I want to ask from the hon. Minister is whether Government propose to make any change in the basic structure of this I.R.D. Programme ?

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, NABARD has conducted a study in which 1,498 beneficiaries have been examined. That study reveals that out of the 1,498 beneficiaries, 14 beneficiaries have sold their assets and hence the loans were misutilised. In the case of 9 beneficiaries out of 1,498 beneficiaries, assets were in defective condition. The target during the Sixth Five Year Plan was to disburse loans to the extent of Rs. 3,000 crores and this amount was to come from the banks and the cooperative banks. One and a half crore families were to be identified during the Sixth Plan. We have reached the target and we have been able to help 1.64 crore beneficiaries during the Sixth Plan, and instead of giving Rs. 3,000 crores, Rs. 3080 crores have been provided to them during the Sixth Plan.

As regards the action taken, wherever specific instances have been brought to our notice, action has been taken. In the last meeting of the Chief Executives, we have brought to their notice the shortcomings that have been found, and we have told them that action should be taken so far as the disbursement and the identification of beneficiaries is concerned. But here I have to say one thing that here also the role of the State Government is there. Identification is done by the State Governments. So, we have written to the State Governments that identification should be done expeditiously.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to my main question. What I mean to ask is whether you are contemplating any radical change in the I.R.D.P. in the near future during the Seventh Five Year Plan in view of the

shortcomings noticed by you in this Programme; if so the nature thereof ? My second supplementary is that though this programme is meant for the poor, yet they are not getting any benefit of this programme. Do Government have under consideration any scheme so as to ensure that benefits of I.R.D.P. reach all people living below the poverty line ?

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, here some change is contemplated regarding the dose of assistance that has to be given to the people who were given earlier. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that the assistance given to them during the Sixth Five Year Plan was not adequate. So, during the Seventh Five-Year Plan it is contemplated that Second dose of assistance should be given to those poorest among the poor people, who were not able to cross the poverty line. The hon. Member is correct in her submission that it has to be given to the poorest among the poor. The people who are identified should be the poorest among the poor, who are living below the poverty line. Here also the role of the State Government has to be taken into consideration. They have to identify the right type of people when they are submitting their applications to the State Governments.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, I complement on behalf of all of us to the Government and the banks specially for carrying corruption so meticulously to the village level.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, I strongly refute it. There may be corruption, but I refute the charge strongly that the Government is carrying corruption to the village level.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question Hour is over.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I strongly assert Mr. Minister that your Banks have carried corruption to the village level.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : You are saying Government has carried corruption, that is wrong. That is all.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Don't shout. Your shouting will not make truth false. Therefore, I would like to know...

MR. SPEAKER : That is all. Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Modernisation of Vizag Steel Plant

***345. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether modernisation of Vizag Steel Plant is considered necessary to enable the plant to be economically viable and to achieve its target of production; and

(b) if so, when Government propose to take up the modernisation programme and whether adequate funds would be made available by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Construction of the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project is based on adoption of most modern technologies. The position is reviewed continuously and more advanced technologies to improve the economic viability of the project further, are being adopted, wherever feasible. Cost in this regard are met from the approved construction cost of the project.

Precious and semi-precious stone and gold bearing tracks in Karnataka

***346. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware

that Karnataka is having eight tracks identified recently where precious and semi-precious stones are available;

(b) whether a Committee consisting of the representatives of Mysore Minerals, Geological Survey of India and the Department of Mines and Geology was formed during 1982;

(c) if so, the findings of the Committee;

(d) whether the Geological Survey of India has taken up a survey of prospective gold bearing tracks in the State; and

(e) if so, the regions where gold is found ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that precious and semi-precious stones occur along 8 tracts in Karnataka State.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Committee recommended the formulation of investigation scheme backed by adequate personnel and financial resources on joint venture basis by the Geological Survey of India and the Department of Mines and Geology of the State Government. It also recommended the establishment of a lapidary unit for testing and polishing samples with skilled personnel and suitable equipment along with evaluation unit for evaluating the samples. The other recommendations of the Committee were to associate Hindustan Diamond Corporation and some other organisations with its activities; modification of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, and Mineral Concession Rules suitably to avoid pilferage etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. As a result of these surveys, gold mineralisation has been located in the following areas of the State :—

(i) Hutti, Raichur district.

(ii) Gadag, Dharwar district.

(iii) Shimoga, Shimoga district.

- (iv) Champion Gneiss area (East of Kolar Gold Field)
- (v) South and North Extension of Kolar Gold bearing tract.

[Translation]

Uniform policy in Banks and Post Offices for calculation of interest

*348. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that interest in Post Office Savings Bank accounts is calculated on annual basis while in the banks it is calculated on half-yearly basis thereby deposits in banks being more remunerative and more attractive; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to adopt uniform policy in banks and post offices for calculating the interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Commercial banks allow interest on Savings Bank accounts at 5% per annum. Calculated on half-yearly basis, the effective interest comes to 5.06% only while Post Office Savings Bank accounts earn interest at 5.5% though calculated on yearly basis. Further, Post Office Savings Bank interest is completely exempt from income tax.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Production and movement of coal to feeding stations

*357. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of coal production State-wise, at present in the country;

(b) which of the thermal power stations are fed with the coal production from various States;

(c) whether the movement of coal to various feeding stations faces great impediment during the time the movement of priority items of foodgrains is made by the railways; and

(d) the arrangements being made to overcome this impediment in the free and speedy movement of coal by rail ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) State-wise production of coal during 1984-85 has been as shown below :-

(Figs. in million tonnes)

State	Production in 1984-85
Andhra Pradesh	12,328
Assam	0,810
Bihar	54,879
Jammu & Kashmir	0,017
Madhya Pradesh	41,030
Maharashtra	10,298
Orissa	5,442
Uttar Pradesh	3,426
West Bengal	19,203

	* 147,433

(b) Following Thermal Power Station's are fed with the coal production from various States as indicated against each Thermal Power Station.

**State in which
collieries are located**

1.	Harduaganj } 'A'	Bihar
2.	Harduaganj } 'B'	
3.	Kanpur (Kesa)	West Bengal
4.	Panki Old	Bihar
5.	Panki Extn.	Bihar
6.	Obra 'A & B'	Madhya Pradesh/U P.
7.	Paricha	Bihar
8.	Singrauli STPS	A.P.
9.	I. P. Station	Bihar
10.	Rajghat	Bihar
11.	Badarpur	Bihar
12.	Faridabad	Bihar
13.	Panipat	Bihar
14.	Bhatinda	Bihar
15.	Ropar	Bihar
16.	Kota	Madhya Pradesh
17.	Ahmedabad	—do—
18.	Ukai	M.P./Maharashtra
19.	Gandhinagar	Madhya Pradesh
20.	Dhavaran	—do—
21.	Wankbori	—do—
22.	Nasik	Maharashtra
23.	Paras	Madhya Pradesh
24.	Koradih	—do—
25.	Bhusawal	—do—
26.	Khapekhada	—do—
27.	Parli	Andhra Pradesh
28.	Chandrapur	Maharashtra
29.	Korba East	Madhya Pradesh
30.	Amarkantak	—do—
31.	Satpura	—do—
32.	Korba West	—do—
33.	Korba STPS	—do—

34.	Ramagundam	Andhra Pradesh
35.	Kothagudem	—do—
36.	Vijayawada	—do—
37.	Ramagundem STPS	—do—
38.	Raichur	—do—
39.	Ennore	—do—
40.	Basin Bridge	A. P.
41.	Tuticorin	West Bengal
42.	Bongaigaon	—do—
43.	Calcutta (CESC)	—do—
44.	Titagarh	—do—
45.	Bandel	—do—
46.	Santaldih	—do—
47.	Kolaghat	Bihar *W.B.
48.	Durgapur (DPL)	West Bengal
49.	Barauni	—do—
50.	Patratu	Bihar
51.	Muzzaffarpur	West Bengal
52.	Bokaro	Bihar
53.	Chanderpura	—do—
54.	Durgapur (DVC)	—do—
55.	Talcher	Orissa

(c) and (d) It is a fact that during the time of the peak movement of food-grains, availability of wagons for coal movement is less than the actual demand. However, with a view to ensuring adequate supplies of coal to the thermal power stations a very high priority is given by Railways to this movement... Constant liaison is being maintained between the agencies involved namely coal companies, Railways & Electricity Boards and regular coordination meetings are also held among the concerned Ministries, as a result of which there has been substantial improvement in the actual supplies of coal to the power stations during 1985-86 as compared to the previous year. On the average about one thousand wagons more per day of coal are being supplied to power stations than last year. Further, a plan

has been drawn up by the Department of Coal, Department of Power and the Ministry of Railways to build up stocks of one month's requirement at the major power stations, excepting those which do not have adequate coal storage and/or handling facilities.

World Development Report

*358. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken note of the World Development Report, 1985 (World Bank Report);

(b) whether the report criticises the developing countries particularly India for its slow progress in its development in spite of re-schedulings of debts; and

(c) if so, the measures thought of by Government to meet the criticism of the World Bank Report ?

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

(b) The World Development Report, 1985 focuses on the role of international capital in economic development and in this context it has dealt with various factors which have contributed to the recent debt problems faced by many developing countries. The report has however singled out India for appreciation under heading : "Careful Borrowing and Risk avoidance ; the case of India". In treating re-schedulings which had occurred prior to recent debt problems, a reference is made to India, but the report makes it clear that the then re-scheduling for India was designed by donors to enhance their aid volume. The report also points out that though growth in recent years has slowed, most developing countries had made substantial economic progress over the past twenty years. Thus there is no implicit or explicit criticism of India's economic performance in the report.

(c) Does not arise.

Banking credit facilities to rural population

*359. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have accepted the norms of providing banking credit facilities to the rural population by providing at least one banking institution for the population of 15,000 (fifteen thousand) to 17,000 (seventeen thousand);

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India had refused to issue licences for opening new branches of commercial banks in the country; and

(c) the date by which Government would be able to provide banking facilities to the rural population in accordance with the norms accepted by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) In the Branch Licensing Policy for the period April 1982 to March 1985 the main objective was to achieve a coverage by one bank office for a population of 17,000 in the rural and semi-urban areas. The Reserve Bank of India has been sanctioning licences for branch expansion and banks have opened 8984 new branches in the rural and semi-urban areas of the country during the period April 1982 to February 1985. The average population per bank office in respect of rural and semi-urban areas of the country as a whole has come down from 21,000 as on 31st March 1982 to 16,000 as at the end of February 1985.

[Translation]

Loans from Foreign countries and international financial institutions

*360. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount proposed to be taken as loan by Union Government from other countries for the Seventh Five Year Plan indicating the amount of loan being received from international financial institutions and the World Bank and the terms and conditions thereof; and

(b) the amount taken as loan from other countries of the World, international financial institutions and World Bank for previous Five Year Plans indicating the amount of loan with interest outstanding against India at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) External resources are mobilised to bridge the gap between total investment outlays and internal resources available during the Plan period. The Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised. Moreover the actual amounts of loans to be taken from international financial institutions, World Bank and the foreign countries would depend on

our year-to-year requirements. Its quantum, terms and conditions etc, would be known only after multilateral/bilateral negotiations are completed.

(b) The amount of loans taken on Government account from other countries of the World, International Financial Institutions and the World Bank for previous Five Year Plans (upto Sixth Plan period) is Rs. 23,915.65 crores. The amount of such loans outstanding at the end of 31.3.1985 is Rs. 24,004.39 crores.

It is to be noted in this connection that the outstanding liability of loans is worked out by converting the various foreign currencies into rupees at the rate of exchange applicable at the time of each drawal and repayment. This explains the larger figures (in terms of rupees) of outstanding loans at the end of 31.3.1985 than the total amounts of loans that had been taken for the various Five Year Plans as indicated above.

Interest is payable on debt outstanding from time to time and is paid on due dates according to the provisions contained in the loan agreements. No payment towards interest is outstanding as on 31.3.1985.

[*English*]

Restriction on export of frog legs

*361. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a report in the 'Times of India' dated 18 July, 1985 that an invention of Indian Scientists in Mangalore for painless disposal of frogs is of great importance keeping in view the export potential thereof ;

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

(c) whether frog legs export would be restricted and the extraction of the frog legs confined to licensed units with modern equipment for painless disposal of frogs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have taken a number of steps for restriction of export of froglegs, which include (i) allowing such exports only by units having facilities for humane killing of frogs and hygenic processing of froglegs; (ii) putting a ceiling on these exports and (iii) regulating the catching of frogs for processing.

[*Translation*]

Losses in cotton corporation of India

*362. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has been running in loss for the last few years;

(b) if so, the main reason therefor; and

(c) the administrative and financial measures proposed to be taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for losses incurred by CCI are carrying charges on large stocks for substantial periods of time high interest rates on working capital, and payment of interest on accumulated losses. During 83-84 and 84-85 the CCI earned profits on current operations which was not enough to offset the burden of interest on earlier losses.

(c) (i) The functioning of the Corporation was reviewed by Government, and it was directed to carry out purchase operations with commercial viability.

(ii) The Corporation has adopted a policy of Sales simultaneous to purchase, thereby reducing the cost of carrying stocks.

- (iii) Government have increased the authorised share capital of the Corporation from Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 25 crores and paid up share capital from Rs. 9 crores to Rs 17 crores.
- (iv) Government have reimbursed the entire cash losses of the Corporation amounting to Rs. 89.53 crores as loan.
- (v) The performance of CCI is being reviewed periodically by the Government.

[English]

Improvement in credit deposit ratio in West Bengal

*363. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks in West Bengal have taken any suitable steps for the improvement of credit deposit ratio; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the exact credit deposit ratio for each of the following banks in the State as on 30 June, 1985 viz. (i) State Bank of India, (ii) United Bank of India, (iii) United Commercial Bank, (iv) Central Bank of India, (v) Allahabad Bank, (vi) Punjab National Bank ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (b) The Reserve Bank of India conducted a sample study in six districts of West Bengal in order to identify the factors inhibiting the flow of credit. Thereafter it was decided to constitute a Task Force consisting of representatives from RBI, NABARD, IDBI, SBI, United Bank of India and Government of West Bengal to make an indepth study of the causes for low credit deposit ratio in West Bengal and to initiate remedial measures.

As per the information available with RBI the credit deposit ratio of the six banks in West Bengal referred to in the

Question, as at the end of December '84 was as follows :—

State Bank of India	69.5
Punjab National Bank	67.1
Allahabad Bank	51.9
United Commercial Bank	50.8
United Bank of India	44.9
Central Bank of India	36.5

Scheme and programme for upgradation of areas

364. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO
Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has asked the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare, Education and Home Affairs respectively to prepare the schemes and programmes for upgradation of the areas for which they had asked the grants-in-aid from the Eighth Finance Commission; and

(b) if so, the schemes and programmes prepared, Ministry-wise and the areas of the districts to be covered, State-wise as per information received by his Ministry from the concerned Ministries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir. The Finance Commission's recommendations regarding upgradation of Standards of administration do not apply to the Central Ministries.

(b) Does not arise.

Royalties payable by Indian companies to foreign collaborators

*365. SHRI V. TULSIRAM :
SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to change the existing basis of computation of royalties payable by Indian Companies to Foreign Collaborators;

(b) if so, the details of the decision arrived at and the date on which it shall come into force;

(c) the extent to which foreign exchange will be saved thereby;

(d) the mode of payment of royalty to the foreign collaborators; and

(e) the extent to which such a decision will have an adverse effect on investment by foreign collaborators in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e) : No such policy decision has been taken.

Proposal to open steel stockyard at Jodhpur

*366. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to open a steel stockyard at Jodhpur;

(b) if so, to whom this agency will be given;

(c) Government's policy in this regard;

(d) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Jodhpur Industries Association, Chamber of Commerce, or other institutions for allotment of this agency; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANTSATHE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The decision to open a stockyard is left to producers who decide on the course of action on commercial considerations and needs of the consumers,

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. They have asked for a steel stockyard of SAIL at Jodhpur. This has been examined. The demand study conducted by SAIL did not find opening of a stockyard economically viable.

Production cost and selling price of controlled cloth, Janata Cloth and Handloom

3573. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the production cost per metre of controlled cloth and janata cloth in mills as well as in the handloom; and

(b) the selling price per metre of controlled and jantaa cloth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Exact cost of production of Janata Cloth and Controlled cloth varies from State to State as well as from time to time as it depends upon cost of raw material and other inputs. The Janata cloth sorts differ from state to state as well.

(b) The selling prices of Janata dhoties and sarees vary between Rs. 1.62 per sq. metre and 4.78 per sq. metre. The selling prices of controlled dhoties and sarees varies between Rs. 2.12 per sq metre and Rs. 4.99 per sq. metre. A statement showing the consumer prices per sq. metre of Janata Cloth and Controlled cloth is given below.

Statement

Statement showing the NTC Controlled Cloth and Janata Cloth Consumer Price sq. metre.

Item	NTC Controlled Cloth		Handlooms Janata Cloth	
	Counts	Price per sq. mt. Rs. P.	Counts	Price per sq. mt. Rs. P.
Grey Dhoti	20/26	2.12	20/20	1.62 to 1.93
	30/36	2.80 to 2.82	30/30	1.90
Bleached Dhoti	30/36	3.20 to 3.23	34/40	2.63
Saree (Coloured)	22/28	3.43	20/20	2.93
	30/36	3.05 to 4.48	30/30	2.88
Saree (Printed)	38/42	4.99	40/40	2.69 to 3.84
			40/40	3.49 to 4.78

Euro-Yen Syndicated Loan

3575. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has raised a Euro-Yen syndicated loan of 10 billion Yen (US \$ 40 millions) with the Japanese Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation and the Industrial Bank of Japan as lead managers;

(b) if so, the names of international banks and Indian banks participating in the syndication;

(c) whether this loan has been earmarked for some industries in the private and public sectors; if so, the broad outlines thereof; and

(d) whether any part of this Euro-Yen loan will be made available to any of the public or private sector industries in Orissa; if so, its particulars ?

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

(b) The Euro-Yen syndicated loan raised by IDBI in July, 1985 comprises two tranches 'A' and 'B' of Yen 5 billion each. Tranche 'A' is the conventional loan lead managed jointly by Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation and the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. Tranche 'B' is the taxspared loan lead managed by Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation (Europe) S.A. The names of the international banks and Indian banks participating in the syndication of the two tranches of the loan are given in the statement below.

(c) and (d) This loan is for replenishment of IDBI Yen resources for meeting the commitments to borrowers and would be utilised on the basis of currency allocation made at the time of effecting payments. As such, the loan has not been earmarked for any particular project/industry/State either in the private or the public sector. It would not, therefore, be possible to indicate, in advance, whether any part of the Euro-Yen loan will be made available to any of the public or private sector projects in Orissa.

Statement

Conventional Loan 'A' Banks	Tax Spared Loan 'B' Banks
1. The Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation (900 million)	1. Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation (Europe) S.A. (1100 million)
2. The Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. (900 million)	2. Generale Bank SA/NV (900 million)
3. The Bank of Tokyo Ltd. (650 million)	3. Mitsui Trust Bank (Europe) S.A. (900 million)
4. State Bank of India (650 million)	4. Takugin International Bank (Europe) S.A. (900 million)
5. The Fuji Bank Ltd. (400 million)	5. Krediet Bank N. V. (500 million)
6. The Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co. Ltd. (400 million)	6. Saitama Bank (Europe) S.A. (500 million)
7. The Yasuda Trust and Banking Co. Ltd. (400 million)	7. Credit Du Nord (200 million)
8. Bank of India (250 million)	
9. The Tokai Bank Ltd. (250 million)	
10. The Toyo Trust and Banking Co. Ltd. (200 million)	

Financial position of Karnataka

3576. SHRI NARSING RAO SURYA-VANSHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government's decision not to give effect to the Finance Commission awards from the year it was due to Karnataka had seriously affected the financial position of the State; and

(b) if so, the comments for doing so ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Karnataka's Plan for 1984-85 was finalised along with the Plans of other States after taking into account the non-plan commitments and without taking credit for any increased transfer of resources from the Centre as a result of the final recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission. Hence non-

implementation of the 8th Finance Commission's recommendations in 1984-85 should not have affected the financial position of the State.

(b) Does not arise.

Demands of All-Parties Delegation of West Bengal Assembly

3577. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the reaction of Union Government on the demand of the Assembly Delegation of all parties of West Bengal to the proposals that (i) Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India should work in close collaboration with the State Government; (ii) whether his Ministry has advised the banks to provide working capital in time to enable the sick units to increase production for the revival; and (iii) the reasons why the jute industry in West Bengal should not be nationalised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):(i) Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) is a statutory body set up by Government of India under IRBI Act, 1984 as the principal credit and reconstruction agency for industrial revival. IRBI considers grant of financial assistance to sick industrial units in the Country, including those in the state of West Bengal. Till the end of March, 1985, IRBI has sanctioned term loan assistance of Rs. 194.58 crores to 133 units in West Bengal constituting 56 per cent of the total sanctions of IRBI and disbursed Rs. 160.51 crores to 121 units in West Bengal constituting 68 per cent of the total disbursements of IRBI.

(ii) The banks provide need based working capital funds on a commercial basis, keeping in view the instructions issued by the RBI from time to time.

(iii) As per the current policy of the Government in regard to sick industrial units, only such of the industrial units, as are considered viable, may be taken over under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and may subsequently be nationalised. This policy is applicable to all sick industrial units including those in the jute industry.

Housing scheme for handloom weavers

3578. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Kerala have forwarded any Housing Scheme for handloom weavers to be implemented in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, details of the scheme;

(c) whether the scheme has been accepted and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) if no decision has been taken, the time by which the decision is expected to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :
(a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Scheme envisages construction of 5000 houses for weavers having their own land, during a period of 5 years from 1984-85 to 1988-89—1000 houses per year. The financial implications of the scheme per house are as under :

	Rs.
(1) Loan from HUDCO	9,700
(2) Contribution by the weaver	1,300
(3) Grant from State Govt.	2,000
(4) Grant from Central Govt.	2,000
Total	15,000

Construction of 1000 houses involves an expenditure of Rs. 150 lakhs in a year or Rs. 750 lakhs over a period of 5 years for 5000 houses.

(c) and (d) No, Sir, Government of India have carefully considered various alternatives and have decided to implement a Scheme entitled 'Workshed-cum-Housing for Handloom Weavers'. The Scheme is centrally Sponsored with a proposed budgetary allocation of Rs. 950 lakhs during 7th Plan, with a view to cover 35,000 worksheds and 15,000 House-Cum-workshed.

The State Governments have been addressed letters requesting them to recommend model units and designs keeping in view the overall cost of the scheme, for consideration of HUDCO. The Scheme envisages House and Workshed with a cost estimate of Rs. 6,000/- and Rs. 3,000/- for Rural and Rs. 12,000/- and Rs. 3,000/- for Urban House and Workshed respectively. HUDCO shall provide a loan of Rs. 3,000/- and Rs. 9,700 for Rural and Urban housing, to be matched with equal contribution of Rs. 1,500/- and Rs. 1,000/- each by centre and State for rural and Urban areas respectively. The spill over of Rs. 300/- in case of Urban Housing shall be contributed by the beneficiary.

The Scheme also provides for construction of work-sheds to be attached to the newly constructed house or to be attached to existing units if space permits. Rs. 3,000/-, which is the approved cost for constructions of worksheds, will be in the

form of grant to be shared equally by Centre and State.

All the State Governments have been addressed letters in June '85 in which they have been requested to prepare project/schemes for Rural as well as Urban, House-cum Worksheds and Worksheds to be attached to existing dwelling units. Each Scheme should at least cover 50 units of Urban houses and 20 units of Rural Houses in a particular Town/Village. Special relaxation will, however, be given to projects for hilly and tribal areas, on merit. While selection venues, the State Government have been requested to emphasise on areas of handloom concentration.

The central contribution to the Scheme shall be in form grant-in-aid to the State Governments.

Revised Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme from respective State Governments are awaited,

Non-payment of claims by Oriental General Fire and Insurance Company

3579. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether Oriental General Fire and Insurance Company are not paying promptly the claims even when these are fully investigated and accepted by the authorities;

(b) if so, the number and details of the cases pending for payment;

(c) whether some Members of Parliament have already brought these facts to the notice of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) It is the policy of the company to settle insurance claims as promptly as is possible. With that end in view, financial authority to settle such claims has been increased and necessary financial delegation conferred on the Branch/Divisional/Regional Officers of the company.

It is not true that payment of claims fully investigated and accepted is unduly delayed. However, cases do arise where certain formalities, viz. furnishing of claim forms, police reports, fire brigade reports, cash memos, bills or subrogation letters, etc., remain to be completed and furnished to the company. Payments in such cases do get delayed till these requirements are complied with by the concerned insurers.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Some references were received by the Government from the Hon'ble Members of Parliament regarding delay in settlement of specific insurance claims by the Oriental Insurance Company Limited and necessary action was taken in respect of each case.

Opening of Regional Offices by S.B.I.

3580. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India has sanctioned and opened its regional offices for 30 to 40 bank branches was to ensure better control and supervision on operations of the banks in the field;

(b) if so, whether there are any 'norms' in this regard for other nationalised banks as well;

(c) if so, the number of branches for which a regional office is opened in the case of (i) Punjab National Bank, (ii) United Commercial Bank; (iii) Central Bank of India; and

(d) the number of Regional and zonal offices for the SBI and the three other banks referred to above as on 30th June, 1985 and names thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Regional Offices are set up by the Banks keeping in view the level of business, area of operations and the number of branches in the command area. The organisational pattern of banks at regional level varies on account of historical reasons, control requirements of individual banks and their delegation of powers structure.

Normally, a Zone in a nationalised bank or a Chief Regional Managers' Office in the State Bank of India, controls 150—200 branches. At the Regional levels, the number of branches controlled in different banks broadly varies between 40 to 70.

(c) and (d) The available information regarding the particulars of the Regional Offices of State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, United Commercial Bank and Central Bank of India and the average number of branches covered by each of the Regional Offices, as reported by the RBI is given below :-

Bank	No. of Zonal Offices/LHOs	No. of Regional Offices	Average No. of branches covered by each Regional Office
State Bank of India	13 (LHO)	47	150
Punjab National Bank	11 (ZO)	39	57
United Commercial Bank	12 (ZO)	40	38
Central Bank of India	12 (ZO)	66	34

Names of the Zonal Offices/Regional Offices indicated above are being ascertained and would be, to the extent available, laid on the Table of the House.

Loss of man-days in public sector Undertakings

3581. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) the total number of man-days lost and the resultant loss in production in the public sector production enterprises during the last three years;

(b) the major reasons for the man-days lost; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) During the year 1981-82, 74 public sector undertakings reported loss of 43, 14, 770 man-days with a resultant production loss of Rs. 5,45,86 lakhs. During the year 1982-83, 76 public sector undertakings reported loss of 36, 11, 837 man-days with a resultant production loss of Rs. 8,46,06 lakhs and during the year 1983-84, 80 public sector undertakings reported loss of 50, 37, 389 man days with a resultant production loss of Rs. 8,59,51 lakhs.

(b) The major reasons for the man-days loss were : industrial unrest, non-availability of essential raw materials and interruptions on account of power shortages.

(c) Amongst the various steps taken/proposed are :

- (1) Introduction and improvement of incentive bonus schemes.
- (2) Quick settlement of wage disputes to improve industrial relations.
- (3) Periodical review of performance by the administrative ministries/departments through Quarterly Performance Review Meetings in respect of individual enterprises with a view to take remedial action where necessary.
- (4) Sanction of additional investment in balancing facilities.
- (5) Provision of captive power plants wherever required.

Raids in Maharashtra

3582. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether some raids have been conducted by the Income Tax, Customs and Excise authorities during the last one year in Maharashtra, particularly in Bombay;

(b) if so, the net result in terms of recovery or confiscation of contraband goods and the number of persons arrested; and

(c) the number of persons prosecuted and released by the Court and the Detention Advisory Boards during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Statement showing number of raid's searches conducted by Income Tax, Customs and Excise authorities during last one year (1 4.84 to 31.3.85) in Maharashtra,

particularly in Bombay and value of asset seized under Income tax-Act, value of contraband goods seized under Customs Act and amount of Central Excise duty sought to be evaded under Central Excise Act is given below. The net result in terms of recovery of Income Tax or confiscation of goods or recovery of Central Excise duty under respective laws will be known only after the cases are adjudicated by proper authorities. Under the Customs Act, 1962, 874 persons were arrested in connection with smuggling activities in Maharashtra during 1984-85.

(c) 576 persons were prosecuted during 1984-85 in connection with smuggling activities. 104 persons were released from detention by Courts and Advisory Boards during the above period.

Statement

Raids/searches conducted by Income Tax, Customs and Central Excise authorities in Maharashtra during the last one year (1.4.84 to 31.3.85)

		Number of Raids/ Searches	Estimated Value of Assets/Contraband goods seized/Central Excise duty sought to be evaded (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Income Tax	1357	901.07
2.	(i) Customs (Appraising Cases)	212	44
	(ii) Customs (Smuggling Cases)	2390	427.26 (provisional)
	Central Excise	217*	185.19

*These figures pertain to number of raids/searches conducted by Collectorates of Central Excise in Maharashtra and do not include the figures of raids/searches conducted by Directorate of Anti-Evasion (Central Excise).

Import of edible oil

3583. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during the year 1984-85 and the quantity likely to be imported during the year 1985-86;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed, if so, the details of the oils likely to be imported; their quantity item-wise;

(c) the quantity of coconut oil and copra imported every year;

(d) whether growers of coconut in Kerala have approached Government to put a ban on the import of coconut oil

and copra in near future to save the growers of that State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) During the Oil Year 1984-85 (November, 84 to October, 85) a quantity of 8,91 lakhs tonnes valued at Rs. 738 crores has been imported till June, 1985. The quantity of oils to be imported is decided by the Government from time to time depending upon factors like indigenous production, demand for edible oil, prices in the National and International Market, availability of foreign exchange etc. It is, therefore, too early to make a forecast of the quantity of edible oils which will be imported during oil year 1985-86.

(c) During the Oil Year 1983-84 (November '83 to October '84), a quantity of 9044 M.T. of RBD coconut oil was imported to relieve the pressure on prices. Government has not made any import of copra.

(d) Some representations have been received for putting a ban on imports of coconut oil and copra.

(e) It is the policy to effect such imports only to protect the interests of growers as well as consumers by way of importing only the bare minimum quantities to bridge the gap between demand and supply and their release is made at price levels reasonable to the consumers and yet remunerative to the growers.

Safety measures to prevent rock bursts in mines

3584. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the safety measures taken at present in the mines to prevent possible rock-bursts;

(b) whether all the mines in the country are provided with micro-seismic equipment for making miners alert well in advance of the possibility of rock-burst;

(c) if not, whether such devices are proposed to be installed in the mines which are situated in seismically active zones; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and when such devices are likely to be installed ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Direct recruitment of Members of Associate Chartered Accountancy as Income Tax Officers

3585. SHRI G.L. DOGRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any provision for direct recruitment of the Members of Associate Chartered Accountancy as Income Tax Officers in the Income Tax Department in the country;

(b) if so, whether these provisions are being implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Enemy property claims

3586. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for enemy property claim filed with his Ministry upto 31st March, 1985;

(b) the number of applications disposed of by ex-gratia payment and full payment respectively;

(c) the number of applications pending with his Ministry for disposal; and

(d) the particulars of highest claimants and the payment made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The last date for filing the claims with the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay was 31st July, 1977. 57,493 claims were registered with the Custodian. Out of the above claims, 18,082 claims have disposed of and Rs. 59.31 crores have been disbursed in settling the claims. 14,752 claim applications are pending for settlement. 24,659 cases have been treated as closed as the claimant have not furnished complete documentary evidence in support of their claims. In no case 100% payment has been made.

(d) The highest claimant M/s Patrakola Tea Co. has been paid Rs. 1,33,95,193/ so far.

[*Translation*]

Assistance by various banks in Ghazipur under self employment scheme

3587. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases as on 31 March, 1985 forwarded by the District Industry Centre, Ghazipur, to the branches of State Bank of India, Union Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Allahabad Bank branch-wise in this district for providing assistance under self-employment scheme ;

(b) the numbers of persons given such assistance and the cases in which assistance was not given by 31 March, 1985; and

(c) the time by which assistance will be provided in all the cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Scheme for providing Self-employment to the Educated Unemployed

youth. The present data reporting system of the banks does not generate data in the manner asked for. However, as per the information received from the State Government, the banks had sanctioned all the 678 cases recommended by the District Industry Centre's Task Force to the banks in the year 1983-84. For the year 1984-85 out of 1113 applications recommended by DIC Task Force to the banks, the banks have sanctioned 675 cases. The banks have been instructed to quickly disburse loans in the cases already sanctioned.

[*English*]

Change in excise clearance procedure for tyres, man-made fibres and yarns

3588. SHRI BIMAL KANTI GHOSH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently changed the excise clearance procedures for tyres, man-made fibres and yarns ;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to ensure proper physical verification of the stocks moving out of factories and to prevent any scope for malpractices or excise evasion by the manufacturers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Government have recently withdrawn the self-removal procedure and introduced physical control in the case of tyres (except those manufactured in units having capital investment, not more than Rs. 20 lakhs on plant and machinery) and man-made fibres and filament yarns (other than cellulosic spun yarn). These goods are chargeable to high rates of duty of excise.

(c) Under physical control, the goods are assessed to duty prior to their removal, which can be effected only after the countersigning of the gatepass by a Central Excise Officer. Further, preventive checks

on production and clearance of the excisable goods have been intensified.

Smugglers arrested under COFEPOSA

3589. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of smugglers arrested by Government State-wise during January, 1984 to June, 1985;

(b) the number of these detained under COFEPOSA; and

(c) the value of the property seized from their possession or at their instance ?

The value of the property seized from their possession or at their instance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Statistics relating to the number of persons arrested State-wise, are not maintained. However, the number of persons arrested in connection with smuggling activities during the years 1984

and 1985 (up to June), various Collectorate-wise is given in the statement below.

(b) The number of persons detained under the COFEPOSA Act, 1947 during the year 1984 and 1985 (upto June) is given below :—

Year	Number of persons detained
1984	719
1985 (upto 29.6.85)	440

(c) The total value of contraband goods seized throughout the country during the year 1984 and 1985 (upto June) is given below :—

Year	Value of goods seized, (Rs. in crores)
1984	101.09
1985 (upto June)	85.66 (provisional)

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the Collectorate/ Customs House	Number of persons arrested	
		1984	1985(upto June)
1.	Ahmedabad	130	146
2.	Collector of Customs/ Collector of Customs (Preventive) Bombay	780	438
3.	Bangalore	11	14
4.	Pune	72	2
5.	Collector of Customs/ Collector of Central Excise, Cochin.	5	26
6.	Rajkot	3	—
7.	Collector of Customs/ Collector of Customs (Preventive) Calcutta.	252	219
8.	Collector of Customs/ Collector of Central Excise, Madras.	286	145

9.	Madurai	132	67
10.	Hyderabad	24	4
11.	Guntur	13	19
12.	Bhubaneshwar	1	11
13.	Trichy	149	92
14.	Collector of Central Excise/ Collector of Customs (Preventive) Patna,	133	124
15.	Shillong	9	10
16.	Chandigarh	25	9
17.	Jaipur	27	9
18.	Delhi	284	111
19.	Kanpur	4	3
20.	Indore	5	4
		—	—
		2345	1443

(Figures for 1985 are provisional)

Amount involved in import of rubber

3590. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rubber imported
during the last three years, year-wise :

(b) the rate at which it is being im-
ported and through which agency and rate
at which it is being distributed to the
users;

(c) the amount annually involved in
regard to import of rubber; and

(d) the steps being taken to produce
more rubber in the country to avoid import
and save crores of rupees as foreign
exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA) : (a) The quantity of rubber
imported during the last three years is as
follows :

Year	Quantity (Metric Tonnes)
1982-83	31,659
1983-84	32,175
1984-85	32,408

(b) Imports are made by STC at
prevailing international market prices. The
current Ex-go-down price of imported
rubber (RSS-III Grade) at Madras payable
by the users is Rs. 16, 500.00 per metric
tonne and Rs. 16,000.00 p.m.t. for SMR-20
Grade.

(c) The CIF cost of imports during
the last 3 years was as follows :—

Year	CIF cost in Rs. lakhs
1982-83	2480
1983-84	3566
1984-85	3529

(d) The Rubber Board is providing
subsidies, extension advisory support, rain-
guarding materials, high yielding planting

materials etc. for growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation, with a view to increasing rubber production in the country.

Retrenchment of workers as a result of condition of IDBI and UBI in granting loans to M/s. Niranjani Mills, Surat

3591. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Union Bank of India (UBI) of Ahmedabad and Surat respectively, were approached for credit and financial assistance by the management of M/s. Niranjani Mills, Surat;

(b) if so, whether IDBI and UBI stipulated that credit can be given only on condition that the Company reduces the labour force;

(c) whether the management accordingly notified that 317 permanent workmen were to be retrenched; and

(d) the credit policy guidelines in such cases of institutions like IDBI and UBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) IDBI and UBI have sanctioned assistance to M/s. Niranjani Mills, Surat as a part of rehabilitation package.

(b) and (c) IDBI has reported that the rehabilitation programme submitted by the company, inter alia, envisaged the discontinuation of a segment of the operations of the company which had been found uneconomic. Consequently, it was proposed to retrench 400 workers on payment of gratuity and full retrenchment compensation. The Company has reportedly initiated action for reducing the work force accordingly.

(d) Normally, in cases where partial closure is considered necessary for ensuring long term viability of a unit, the rehabilitation package may provide for retrench-

ment of the surplus labour and payment of retrenchment compensation and other outstanding dues to the workers. The process is reported to have been followed in the case of M/s. Niranjani Mills also.

Larger share of market borrowings to A.P.

3592. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has pleaded recently with the Union Government that large share of market borrowings for the States be given :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government there to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh had requested for an increase in the States' share of market borrowings.

(c) The market borrowings of the States have been increased by 20% in the current year over last year's level.

[Translation]

Recommendations of the study group on iron and steel industry re : modernisation of steel plants

3593. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the study group on iron and steel industry has expressed the view that the steel plants in the country are operating on 25 years old technique as a result of which they are neither able to achieve production targets nor able to meet the changing demands of the market ;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and the conclusions reached by this study group, the reaction of Government thereto and the action being taken on them; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred on each plant, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the Working Group on Iron and Steel set up by the Planning Commission for the 5 years period 1985-90. The Working Group Report has said that since the commissioning of the integrated steel plants in the 1950s considerable time has elapsed during which period raw material characteristics have changed, technology has become obsolete and the plant and equipment has aged.

(b) and (c) Study Group has suggested modernisation/refurbishing of the steel plants to attain the rated capacity production in the most cost effective manner, taking into account the deteriorating quality of raw materials, conservation of energy and improvement in the quality of products. While formulating the modernisation schemes for various plants, wherever feasible, upgradation of technology has been taken into consideration. Modernisation plans for Durgapur, Rourkela and IISCO steel plants have been drawn up. Investment decisions will be taken thereon when the 7th Plan outlay on the steel sector are finalised.

[English]

Problems of exporters in chemical sector

3594. **SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have set up a standing Committee to look into the problems faced by exporters in the chemicals sector so as to remove the constraints in the way of increased export effort ;

(b) if so, the details regarding the main difficulties being experienced by the exporters; and

(c) the details regarding the performance of the chemical sector while competing in the international market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main difficulties being experienced by exporters relate to shortage of power, high cost of raw materials, outmoded technology, inadequate level of expenditure on R & D by chemical industry.

(c) Although the chemical sector is a non-traditional area of exports, it has made rapid strides in the recent past. Estimated export performance of chemicals and allied products during the last three years is indicated below :

Year	(Value in crores (Rs.) FOB value of exports)
1982-83	603.17
1983-84	698.74
1984-85	794.47

Handloom yarn bank at Howrah

3595. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state whether the Union Government will take initiative for a Handloom Yarn Bank at Howrah to facilitate the weavers of Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : The National Handloom Development Corporation is holding consultation with the Officers of the Government of West Bengal for making arrangements for supply of yarn to handloom agencies of the State.

Implementation of Tribunal Awards by B.C.C.I.

3596. **SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tribunal awards implemented by the Bharat Coking Coal

Ltd. in the last three years with year-wise break-up giving the names and dates of awards and the unions involved; and

(b) the awards which remained unimplemented and the steps taken thereon, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Subsidiary to weaver societies in Bihar

3597. SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether weavers societies in Bihar had allowed rebate on their products in 1971 as per the policy of Union Government but the amount of the subsidy to cover this rebate is still due from Government and on the other hand the loans sanctioned to those societies by the banks and federations have not been released by them because of non-payment of subsidy money by Government and the societies are now not in a position to provide work to their members; and

(b) if so, the time by which the above amount will be paid ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) During 1971 as per the then prevalent Rebate scheme, the weavers societies were allowed to offer rebate on sales of handloom cloth. No claim from the Bihar Government for Rebate payments pertaining to this period is pending with the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Earnings through levy of import duty on foreign vessels imported

3598. SHRI M. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of earnings through the levy of import duty on foreign vessels imported by India through the Metal Scrap Trading Corporation during the last two years;

(b) whether Government propose to consider to lower the rate of duty in view of the recent loss experienced by the ship breaking companies which have had to pay unnecessarily high prices for their procurement; and

(c) whether Government propose to take steps to extend all possible aid including reduction of duty to step up the development of ship breaking units in India especially since their counter parts in Taiwan, S. Korea, Spain, Pakistan, China and Bangladesh are said to be flourishing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The Ship-breaking units are being helped by the Government by supplying their input material, namely, old ships for breaking, to the extent considered necessary for import having regard to the overall demand for, and supply of, steel re rolled items in the country. Apart from this, financial assistance is also being provided by Ferrous Scrap Committee for purchase of necessary equipment by shipbreakers and by Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited by giving bill discounting facilities.

Delay in commencement of construction work of LIC building at Vijayawada

3599. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the office situated in the L.I.C. building located in Besant Road, Vijayawada was shifted to a rented accommodation at the rate of Rs. 10,000 per month in Arundel Municipal complex with a view to enable to take up construction of nine storeyed building;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in commencement of construction work at Vijayawada where 25 to 30 crores of rupees business of insurance is made every year; and

(c) the date by which the work is likely to commence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Branch Office of the LIC located in the building at Besant Road, Vijayawada, was shifted to Arundel Municipal Complex accommodation at a monthly rent of Rs. 9760.

(b) and (c) The LIC have a proposal to re-develop the property at Besant Road after demolition of the existing building. However, vacant possession is yet to be obtained of some parts of the building. Action to get premises vacated has been taken. After vacant possession of all the parts of the building is obtained demolition work will be undertaken. Tenders have been invited meanwhile for demolition work of the structure.

Negotiation for foreign loans by State Government Enterprises

3600 SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the public enterprises of State Government can negotiate foreign loans without permission from the Union Government;

(b) whether in 1984-85 Kerala State Electricity Board has successfully negotiated Rs. 500 crores loan from the Government of Canada or any financial institution in Canada;

(c) whether the loan was negotiated after obtaining prior sanction from Government; and

(d) if not, the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Discovery of precious stones in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa

3601. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have found the deposits of some precious stones in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the survey reports submitted by the Geological Survey of India and State Mining Department in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANTI SATHÉ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of surveys carried out by Geological Survey of India and State Mining Department of Orissa, only small pockets and sporadic occurrences of Sapphire, Garnet and Aquamarine have been reported from Kariakot, Badiamura, Lanji and Sinapali areas in Kalahandi district and aquamarine from Birmaharajpur, Patnagath Sangamra areas in Bolangir district. Garnets also found near Talpadar and Damjnor in Kalahandi district and beryl around Gochhapara, Antaria and Mannipada.

Purchase of cotton in Andhra Pradesh by Cotton Corporation of India

3602. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that nearly one lakh bales of cotton are lying with the farmers of Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh and the Cotton Corporation of India is not buying cotton even at the minimum price;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by Government to purchase huge stocks of cotton produced by the small farmers of Guntur and Prakasam Districts,

(c) whether the export quota of cotton allotted to Andhra Pradesh will be increased to 50,000 bales this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH);

(a) to (d) It has been reported that the farmers of Guntur and Prakasam districts in Andhra Pradesh were facing difficulty in disposing of their cotton. The Cotton Corporation in close coordination with the State Government has already arranged purchase of kapas arriving at the regulated market yards at support prices subject to suitable deductions on account of poor quality. The Corporation has assured the farmers of its presence in the regulated markets throughout the season. The Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation has already been released an export quota of 10,000 bales. The Cotton Corporation of India has also been purchasing cotton from Andhra Pradesh for export.

Dissent on the question of black money

3604. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been serious dissent on the question of black money in the country;

(b) if so, details of differences in the estimate of black money by various agencies;

(c) whether Government have any new Bond Scheme for unearthing black money;

(d) whether the earlier Bond Scheme for black money has been a success; and

(e) if so, whether Government are considering renewing the same and if so, in what form?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The

National Institute of Public Finance and Policy was entrusted with the study of the estimate and the extent of black money in the country. No other agency has been entrusted with the study. NIPFP in its report "Aspects of Black Economy in India" have estimated the black income generation in 1983-84 at 18 to 21% of the Gross Domestic Products at 31,584 to 36,786 (rupees in crores).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Rs. 964.45 crores worth Bearer Bonds were sold.

(e) No, Sir.

Taking possession of properties of smugglers and foreign exchanges manipulators

3605. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for taking physical possession of the properties of smugglers and foreign exchanges manipulators only in about 66 cases involving properties valued at about Rs. 31.21 lakhs as on 30th November, 1984, while the competent authorities had upto 30th November, 1984 issued notices under Section 6 of the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 in about 2449 cases involving properties valued at about Rs. 39.47 crores; and

(b) when Government propose to complete this process and the number of cases pending as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Physical possession of a property under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 cannot be taken over merely by issuance of a notice under Section 6. Proceedings for taking over physical possession of a property can be started only in a case in which an order for forfeiture has been made after considering the explanation given by the persons affected and after allowing him a reasonable opportunity of hearing.

A variety of enquiries and investigations have to be made before an order of forfeiture can be made. Physical possession of properties cannot be taken over in cases in which proceedings have been dropped. In certain circumstances, the person affected has to be given an option to pay, in lieu of forfeiture, a fine. The proceedings in a large number of cases are held up on account of stays granted by the Courts. In these cases also, physical possession of properties cannot be taken over.

(b) Initiation of proceedings under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange Manipulators (Forfeiture of Property) Act, 1976 is a continuous process. Proceedings in a case can be completed only after an order has been made and has become final. 851 cases were pending for disposal with the Competent Authorities as on the 30th June, 1985, including 408 cases in which proceedings are held up on account of stays granted by the Courts.

Insurance claims made by companies during riots in Delhi

3606. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of companies which have made insurance claims exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for damages during the November, 1984 riots in Delhi; and

(b) the number of companies which have been paid full or part of the Insurance claims indicating the names and the moneys disbursed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The number of companies who have made insurance claims exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs for damages during November, 1984 riots in Delhi is 45.

(b) The number of such companies who have been paid full or part of the insurance claims so far, is 42. The names of such companies and the amounts paid to them are as under :—

	Name of the Insured	Amount paid (in lakhs of rupees)
(1)	Triveni Plastics	10.61
(2)	Kanwar S.M.	15.30
(3)	C.S.R. Rose Breeders (India)	15.92
(4)	Rajkamal Engineering	10.37
(5)	Bawa Glue Mfg. Company	10.71
(6)	Delhi Colours (Pvt) Ltd.	26.57
(7)	Atma Steel Pvt. Ltd.	21.00
(8)	Pure Drinks (New Delhi) Ltd.	46.65
(9)	Mohan Machines Ltd.	134.95
(10)	M/s. H.R. Products Pvt. Ltd.	54.25
(11)	Punjab Stainless Steel Ind.	12.59
(12)	Invention Exports Pvt. Ltd.	16.15
(13)	M/s. Cyclops	10.93
(14)	M/s. Skipper Properties	32.78

1	2	3
(15)	M/s. Scooters International	20.43
(16)	M/s. Sigma Industries	13.41
(17)	M/s. Surjan Singh Mehtab Singh	13.24
(18)	M/s. Sawhney Exports House	44.70
(19)	Sawhney Brothers	42.67
(20)	Katasia Food Industries Pvt. Ltd.	20.25
(21)	Delhi, U.P., M.P. Transport Co.	9.45
(22)	Capricorn One	19.49
(23)	Singh Traders	36.18
(24)	Leading Engg. Works	17.73
(25)	Singh Export Corporation	13.51
(26)	Ram Chandra Krishna Chandra	18.00
(27)	Oberoi & Company	18.17
(28)	Mohindra & Mohindra Sons	8.55
(29)	Nanak Dairy Plant	2.43
(30)	Budha Textiles	7.73
(31)	Delhi Metal Stores	5.91
(32)	Maclon India	11.50
(33)	Chawla Group of Industries	43.17
(34)	Veetex Products Ltd.	1.44
(35)	Uni Plast India	7.50
(36)	Superior Steel Products	5.67
(37)	Freez and Freezing	0.26
(38)	S. M. & Sons	23.05
(39)	Premier Woolen Mill's	21.40
(40)	Overseas Sales Corporation	2.75
(41)	Darbar Woollen Mills	16.35
(42)	Modi Rubber Ltd.	19.82

[Translation]

Value description of raw wool cutting exports

3607. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Value Description of Raw Wool Cutting Exports' appearing in the 'Financial Express' dated 23rd July, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that 'raw wool' and 'scared wool' exporters are being harassed by custom officers;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government so far in this direction; and

(d) if no steps have been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Revenue has already issued administrative instructions to the Customs Authorities to the effect that wool, raw as given in the tariff should cover Scoured wool also.

[English]

Decline in percentage share of States/Union Government in public sector assets

3608. SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage share of some States/Union Territories in the gross value of public sector assets has declined during the period between 1976-77 to 1984-85;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the gross value of public sector assets in the country as on 31 March, 1977 and 1985 the State-wise break-up thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) As the accounts of the Central Public Sector Undertakings for the year 1984-85 are under various stages of finalisation and audit, value of gross block of Central Public Sector Undertakings and its State-wise break-up are available only upto 1983-84. These details for 1976-77 to 1983-84 are already given in the Public Enterprises Surveys of the respective years placed on the Table of Lok Sabha.

Restrictions of collective bargaining in public sector undertakings

3609. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been considering certain proposals to put some restrictions on the established progress of collective bargaining in some public undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Backlog of SC/ST officers in Punjab National Bank

3611. SHRI NANDLAL CHOUHDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and percentage of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes officers, with their number in backlog, in different management grades in Punjab National Bank, region-wise and grade-wise;

(b) the grades in which reservation is given and whether reservation quota is full in all grades;

(c) if reservation is not full, the measures taken by Punjab National Bank in completing reserved quota in these grades;

(d) whether reservation is given while making promotions from JMG to MMG and from MMG to selection grade posts; and

(e) whether the roster system is applied in respect of these posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) As per the report received from Punjab National Bank the number and percentage of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Officers as on 30.6.85 is as under :—

Total Strength of officers	Number of S.C.s	Percentage	No. of S.T.s	Percentage
10860	920	8.47	160	1.47

Since the recruitment is done on an All India basis, the region-wise backlog is not applicable. The backlog of SC and ST, as on 30.6.85, in different grades of officers cadre was as under :—

Grade	SC	ST
JMG. Scale-I	14	35
MMG Scale-II	4	3
MMG Scale-III	5	2
SMG Scale-IV	—	—
SMG Scale-V	1	—
Total =	24	40

(b) and (c) The reservation in recruitment to officer's cadre is applied to all such posts in every grade to which direct recruitment is made by the bank. The bank has not been able to get sufficient number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe category in Officer grade particularly in Specialists' posts. The bank is pursuing the matter with the Banking Service Recruitment Board, Delhi.

(d) According to the existing instructions, if the promotions are made on seniority basis, reservations will be applicable upto MMG Scale-III. Where the promotions are made on the basis of selection, reservation is available only in promotion from clerical cadre to the Junior Management Scale-I. In Punjab National Bank, promotions to the various scales in the officers cadre is not based exclusively on seniority. These are made on selection basis. The reservations in promotions are therefore not applicable to any promotion within the officers cadre. There is no selection grade post in the bank. However, there are senior management and top executive grades but reservations in promotion from MMG to these grades are not applicable.

(e) The roster system is followed in all cases where reservations are applicable.

Loans through Nationalised Banks

3612. SHRI BANWARI LAL BAI-RWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme in Delhi under consideration for affording/providing loans through nationalised banks to the matriculates and above, who belong to weaker sections of the society, for starting their own small business/small scale industry on self-employment basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Scheme for providing Self-employment to the educated unemployed youth. The objective of the scheme is to encourage the educated unemployed youth to undertake self-employment ventures in industries, services and business through the provisions of package of assistance.

However, the Self-employment scheme which was introduced in the year 1983-84, extends to all areas of the country, excepting cities with more than one million population as per 1981 Census. Delhi being a city having more than one million population has been kept outside the purview of the Scheme.

Trade imbalance with Brazil

3613. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high degree of imbalance exists in the country's trade exchanges with Brazil;

(b) if so, the reasons for this imbalance; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to have a more balanced trade with Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reasons for imbalance in trade between Brazil and India are that whereas India imports substantial quantities of edible oil from that country, India's exports are inhibited by, inter-alia, freight disadvantage due to long distance, lack of direct sailing and severe import restrictions in Brazil due to debt crisis.

(c) Efforts are being made to set up at Governmental level a suitable mechanism to explore ways and means of achieving balanced level of trade. A number of delegations of FICCI, Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, Association of Indian Engineering Industry and IIFT were sent to Brazil for developing trade during the last five years. Delegations and teams from Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council, SAIL, Trade Development Authority and of automotive parts manufacturers visited Brazil in 1984 with the same objective. Efforts are being made also to organise satisfactory sailing arrangements from Indian to Brazilian ports.

Detection of excise evasion cases

3614. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of excise evasion detected during the last three years, collectorate-wise;

(b) the number of them disposed of and number of those still pending;

(c) the steps taken to finalise those cases expeditiously as also the details of steps taken to check the further evasion of excise; and

(d) whether there has been any improvement in the collection of taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Information regarding cases of evasion of central excise duty detected during the years 1982, 1983, 1984 and upto June 1985 is given in the Statement below.

(b) After detection, cases are investigated and then adjudicated by the appropriate adjudicating authority. The number of these cases disposed of and those pending has to be ascertained from the field formations. The time, expenditure and the efforts involved will be considerable. However, if information is required about any particular case, it will be collected and furnished.

(c) The field formations have been directed from time to time to see that there is no delay in finalising adjudication proceedings. Further, powers of adjudication of various central excise officers have been recently enhanced. Preventive checks and excise control on factories have been intensified to check evasion of excise duty.

(d) Collection of central excise duties during the first four months of the current financial year is more than the collection during the corresponding period of last financial year.

Statement

Statement showing Collectorate-wise No. of cases of evasion of Central Excise duty detected during 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 (upto June 1985)

Collectorate		No. of cases detected			
		1982	1983	1984	1985 (upto June)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Ahmedabad	170	124	69	28
2.	Allahabad	215	328	198	98
3.	*Aurangabad	—	16	35	31
4.	Bangalore	371	264	109	59
5.	Baroda	243	185	104	66
6.	*Belgaum	—	44	206	102
7.	Bhubaneswar	117	70	157	100
8.	Bombay-I	56	55	73	29
9.	Bombay-II	52	56	62	26
10.	**Bolpur	—	—	65	100
11.	Calcutta-I	600	342	127	76
12.	Calcutta-II	462	301	214	127
13.	Chandigarh	420	261	311	127
14.	Cochin	213	256	282	157
15.	*Coimbatore	—	72	192	127
16.	Delhi	520	557	547	159
17.	Goa	—	2	1	9
18.	Guntur	142	138	170	94
19.	Hyderabad	606	623	453	322
20.	Indore	506	229	203	99
21.	Jaipur	270	255	162	67
22.	Kanpur	184	166	224	303
23.	Madras	735	507	311	157
24.	Madurai	410	618	480	125
25.	Meerut	228	186	218	157
26.	Nagpur	77	50	55	50
27.	Patna	341	205	143	54
28.	Pune	151	96	40	57
29.	*Rajkot	—	33	74	34
30.	Shillong	96	125	92	39

1	2	3	4	5	6
31.	*Thane	—	10	49	27
32.	*Trichurapalli	—	1	12	46

*Collectorates of Central Excise Aurangabad, Belgaum, Coimbatore, Rajkot, Thane and Trichurapally came into existence from 1.9.1983.

**Collectorate of Central Excise, Bolpur came into existence w.e.f. 1.7.1984.

Note :—Apart from the above, some cases have been detected by the Directorate of Anti-evasion having inter-collectorate ramification.

Applications for additional spindlages from spinning mills in backward districts

3616. SHRI K. KUNJANBU : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether additional spindlages are allowed only in backward districts;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the rules governing the expansion of existing units which are operating in non-backward districts;

(d) whether in the light of the new policy applications from existing units for expansion are being reconsidered; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (e). As per the present policy now licences will in the ordinary course be restricted to category 'A' backward districts as notified by the government from time to time. However in such states where there are no such areas new licences may also be considered for category 'B' backward regions. The decision has been taken keeping in view the tentative projected requirements of additional spinning capacities during the Seventh Five Year Plan and the fact that there exists a large number of valid permits issued under the previous Licensing scheme.

Arrest of local contact man and four british nationals in smuggling foreign cars

3617. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a massive racket involved in smuggling foreign cars into the country by employing foreigners and misusing carnet facilities has been recently busted with the arrest of the local contact man and four British nationals last week by the customs and Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Bombay;

(b) if so, the details of the persons involved;

(c) the number of cars so far sold by the involved persons; and

(d) the steps Government contemplated in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence recently busted a racket in the smuggling of foreign cars into the country by employing foreigners and misusing carnet facilities. The following persons have been arrested in this connection :—

1. Mohd. Nasir Afgar,
son of Mohd. Jamil Afgar,
Tankerville Road,
Stroatham, London SW-16 U.K.
2. Aboubaker Moosa Ismail Hassan-
jee, son of Moosa Ismail
Hassanjee, 51, Gunterstene Road,
London-W-14
3. Michael George Pearce,
son of M.A. Pearce,
51, Belmont Road, Th Ford, Essex,
England
4. Winston Alexander Lindsay,
son of Daniel Lindsay,
5, Deaconsway Heygate Estate,
London SE-17
5. Ravi Walia,
6 Mahesh Villa, Worli,
Bombay.

(c) According to the information readily available eleven cars pertaining to the gang have been seized so far at different places in the country.

(d) As investigations are still in progress, it will not be expedient to disclose further details and the steps contemplated by the Government at this stage.

Rehabilitation of blacklisted garment exporters

3618. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain garment exporters who were once blacklisted, were rehabilitated without any valid reasons by the authorities;

(b) whether after such abnormal rehabilitation those exporters were again found to have indulged in identical crimes;

(c) whether it is also a fact that method of granting registration to garment exporters need thorough overhauling;

(d) if so, when that is likely to take place; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Reconsideration of indirect taxes policy

3619. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry have urged Government to consider indirect taxes policy approach to take care of revenue mobilisation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (b) The Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry have made certain suggestions which are being examined by the Technical Study Group whose report is expected to be submitted to the Government shortly.

[Translation]

Per capita loans given by nationalised banks

3620. SHRI SARFARAZ AHMAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States and Union Territories in which maximum and minimum per capita loan has been given by nationalised banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the financial condition of the people of Andaman, Nicobar and Laksha deep Islands in which minimum loan has been given, is very weak and its financial resources are also meagre; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to remove this disparity ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The names of the States and Union Territories in which maximum and minimum per capita advances have been given by Public Sector Banks as at the end of December 1984 are set out below :—

Maximum		Minimum	
State	Rupees	State	Rupees
Maharashtra	1725	Manipur	115
Union Territory		Union Territory	
Chandigarh	22642	Mizoram	111

(Based on 1981 Census)

(b) The per capita bank credit in the Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep as at the end of December 1984 were Rs. 305 and Rs. 133 respectively.

(c) The banks have been advised to take effective steps to increase the flow of credit to deficient areas and to maintain minimum credit : deposit ratio of 60 per cent in respect of their rural and semi-urban branches. The implementation of Annual Action Plans and District Credit Plans, dovetailed to the fulfillment of local population, is expected to increase the flow of credit to the deficient areas.

[English]

Efforts to raise indigenous production of major import items

3621. SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are making efforts to raise indigenous production of major import items to reduce the balance of trade gap; and

(b) if so, the items of production which will be raised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Efforts have been and are being made by the Government to raise the indigenous production of major import items like crude oil & petroleum products, fertilizers, iron & steel, cement, newsprint, edible oils and food grains.

Export of food

3622. SHRI ANIL BASU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to export food; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the quantum proposed to be exported ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) In view of comfortable stock position of wheat; it has been decided to allow export of limited quantities of wheat, Maida, Suji and wholemeal atta. It is not possible, at the stage, to indicate the quantum of wheat and wheat products that the trade would be able to export during the current financial year. This would depend on the trading conditions.

Leakage of gas from the premises of Gwalior Rayons, Nagda

3623. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether during recent past in the premises of Gwalior Rayons, Nagda, a unit of Birlas, gas leaked resulting many persons affected;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the local authorities did not take any action against the company;

(c) whether previously some units of Gwalior Rayons were nationalised by Government but latter on these were denationalised; and

(d) whether Government propose to inquire into the affairs of Gwalior Rayons, Nagda and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) It is reported that ammonia gas leaked from the Plant of Gwalior Rayons at Nagda on 21.4.85, affecting some workers,

(b) No information is available.

(c) No such action was taken.

(d) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Constitution of a service commission for Government undertakings

3624. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that selection and appointment of employees for subordinate offices of Government is done through UPSC and SSC;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that recruitment for nationalised banks is done through Banking Services Commission;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to recruit employees for other Government undertakings by constituting a Commission; and

(d) if so, by what time it will be constituted and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The selection and appointment of employees to Group 'A' and 'B' posts in the Central Government Ministries is made through UPSC, while the recruitment to Group 'C' posts is made through SSC.

(b) The recruitment of clerks and officers in the public sector banks is done through Banking Service Recruitment Boards. The Banking Service Commission has not yet been set up.

(c) and (d) The Government have laid down a broad policy for recruitment in public sector enterprises and this is working satisfactorily. There is no proposal to set up a Commission for recruitment of employees in public sector enterprises.

[English]

Setting up of rubber processing units in Kerala

3625. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government consider that there is scope for setting up rubber processing units in the Central Sector in Kerala;

(b) whether any move is being made in this respect; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Rubber processing units are not capital intensive projects and can be set up in the Cooperative Sector as well as by private entrepreneurs.

Imports of rubber

3626. DR.G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to import 20,000 tonnes of raw rubber;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this import will adversely affect the rubber producers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to protect the producers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Domestic production is not sufficient to meet the demand. Hence, import of natural rubber is allowed only to the extent required to bridge the gap between production and consumption.

(c) and (d) In order to ensure that imports of natural rubber may not adversely affect the rubber producers, the following steps are taken.

- (i) Demand-supply gap is reviewed from time and import is limited to meet the actual demand supply gap.
- (ii) Domestic price trend is reviewed periodically.
- (iii) Imported rubber is released during lean production months.
- (iv) Release price of imported rubber is fixed at Rs. 1650 per quintal by adjusting the duty structure.

Geological Survey in Madhya Pradesh

3627. SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the location of the headquarters of the Geological Survey of India in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the names of the places where survey has been carried out under its supervision; and

(c) the names of the minerals found there and the policy of Government for their mining ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Geological Survey of India has three circle offices, each under a Director, in Madhya Pradesh State. These offices are at Bhopal, Jabalpur and Raipur. Madhya Pradesh falls in the Central Region of Geological Survey of India whose Headquarters is at Nagpur.

(b) and (c) The main activities of these three circle offices of Geological Survey of India are to cover the entire State by systematic geological mapping and also to carry out survey of minerals. Most of the districts of the State have either been covered already by geological mapping or are being so covered.

As regards mineral investigations the following mineral deposits have been located as a result of work carried out by GSI field parties.

	Location	Minerals Surveyed
1	2	3
Bhopal	Amliamal-Ressouri Sector (Meghnagar area), Jhabua district.	Phosphorite
	Salaiya area in Chhattarpur district.	Base metal (Copper ore)
	Amkut-Kalyawara area in Jhabua district.	Limestone/Dolomite
Jabalpur	Kuteshvar-Mangahata area, Rewa, Satna and Jabalpur district.	Limestone
	Hirapur-Mardovca-Kachar sector in Sagar-Chhattarpur district.	Phosphorite
	Byziah-Baharitola sector, Sidihi district.	Base metal (Copper ore)

1	2	3
	Rama-Ramanetra, Balaghat district.	Manganese ore
	Panna and Chhattarpur district.	Diamond
	Kari, Khera, etc areas in Tikamgarh district.	Pyrophyllite
	Gowari Wadhona, Kachidhana, Palaspani areas, Chhindwara district.	Manganese ore
Raipur	Bodai-Daldali area, Rajnandgaon district.	Bauxite
	Keskal-Ambeta area, Bastar district.	Bauxite
	Rewghat area, Bastar district.	Iron ore
	Jamirapat Plateau area, Sarguja district.	Bauxite
	Parts of Dharamjayagarh and Joshpur tehsils, Sarguja district.	Gold
	Bastar District (Work taken up under a special project)	Tin mineralisation.

The policy of the Government is to take up mining of mineral deposits which are viable from the techno-economic point of view.

Location of public sector industries

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

3628. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH :

SHRI P. R. KUMAR-
MANGALAM :

SHRI VISHNU MODI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise break-up of the location of public sector industries as on 31 March, 1985;

(b) whether Government propose to consider striking a balance in the distribution of industries in the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) As many of the Central Public Enterprises are having their area of operation spread over more than one State, the State-wise location of the 210 industrial and commercial undertakings of the Central Government as on 31.3.1984 with reference to their Registered Offices is given in the statement below.

(b) and (c). Central investments are not decided only with a view to distribute such investments State-wise. In deciding the location of public enterprises, many factors, mostly techno-economic have to

be kept in mind. The location of natural resources which are most economically exploitable, the availability of infrastructure, skilled manpower etc. are some of the considerations that rule the choice of the location.

Statement

State-wise location of Registered Offices of central public sector undertakings as on 31.3.1984

1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Assam	4
3.	Bihar	12
4.	Gujarat	3
5.	Haryana	1
6.	Karnataka	14
7.	Kerala	6
8.	Maharashtra	25
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2
10.	Nagaland	1
11.	Orissa	3
12.	Punjab	2
13.	Rajasthan	6
14.	Tamil Nadu	7
15.	Uttar Pradesh	14
16.	Delhi	54
17.	Goa	2
18.	Andaman & Nicobar	1
19.	West Bengal	41
	Total	210

Investment of the union government in public sector undertakings in West Bengal

3629. SHRI ATISH CHANDRA SINHA ; Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment of the Union Government so far in Public Sector Undertakings in West Bengal (industry-wise break-up and year-wise break-up);

(b) how does the above figure compare with that of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar; and

(c) the plans Government have to invest in such or new undertakings in West Bengal in future including Metro & Circular Railway and the Second Hoogly Bridge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The details of investment (represented by Gross Block) of Central Public Enterprises in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bihar and also other States are available in the Public Enterprises Surveys of the respective years, placed on the Table of Lok Sabha every year. A statement showing the names of the Public Enterprises having significant investment in West Bengal along with the details of the investments as on 31.3.1984 is given below.

(c) The complete picture is not yet available as the Seventh Five-Year Plan is to be finalised.

Statement

Statement showing the amount of gross block including capital work in progress and unallocated expenditure and other assets of Central Public Enterprises located in West Bengal in 1983-84.

Sl. Nos.	Name of the Enterprises	Gross Block (Rs. in crores)
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	578.48
2.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	519.06
3.	Hindustan Fertilisers Corporation.	464.02
4.	National Thermal Power Corpn.	296.75
5.	IISCO	262.70
6.	Indian Oil Corpn.	196.67
7.	Oil & Natural Gas Commission.	126.73
8.	Hindustan Cable Ltd.	42.19
9.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	40.93
10.	Jessop & Co.	33.25
11.	Gardon Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.	28.85
12.	National Textile Corpn. (WBBAO) Ltd.	27.70
13.	National Jute Manufactures Corpn. Ltd.	25.83
14.	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	23.26
15.	Coal India Ltd.	22.06
16.	Food Corpn. of India.	21.07
17.	International Airports Authority of India.	19.43
18.	Andrew Yule Co.	17.70
19.	Burn Standard Co.	15.76
20.	Oil India Ltd.	13.12
21.	Indian Airlines.	12.59
22.	National Hydro Electric Power Corpn.	11.78
23.	Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.	10.96
24.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	9.79
25.	Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.	8.52
26.	Hindustan Petroleum Ltd.	6.52
27.	Bengal Chemicals Ltd.	5.88
28.	Banarhat Tea.	4.80
29.	Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Co. Ltd.	4.56
30.	India Tourism Dev. Corpn.	3.94
31.	Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	3.93
32.	National Instruments	3.15
33.	Others	47.89
		2909.17

World Bank help to schemes for boosting exports of engineering goods

3630. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposed US \$ 250 million projects to the World Bank for exclusive financing of the schemes for boosting exports of engineering goods;

(b) whether Government have already carried out a study to identify the engineering companies for the purpose of promotion of production of engineering goods and exports;

(c) whether Government have also identified foreign markets which are ready to purchase the Indian engineering goods; and

(d) if so, the details of the countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The objective of the project is to assist the Government of India in carrying out its programme to increase competitiveness and export of engineering goods.

(b) to (d) Areas with export potential have been identified for special efforts and individual companies would be provided assistance under the project. The project is not market specific and seeks to increase the international competitiveness and export of engineering goods.

[Translation]

Mini Steel Plants

3631. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mini steel plants functioning in the country at present and the number of these plants under construction;

(b) the year-wise production in these plants from 1983 till date;

(c) whether Government are considering to set up a mini steel plant in Barabanki District of Uttar Pradesh :

(d) if so, whether Government propose to set up this plant during the current Five Year Plan; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NATHWAR SINGH) : (a) Industrial licenses and letters of intent have been issued for setting up of 195 electric arc furnace units (mini steel plants). Out of these 156 units are functioning and the remaining are at various stages of implementation.

(b) Production of steel ingots in respect of units reporting to the Iron & Steel Controller is as under :

Year	(In Million Tonnes Production)
1983-84	1.98
1984-85	2.33
1985-86 (Upto June 1985)	0.50 (Provisional)

(c) to (e) There is no such proposal.

[English]

Insurance scheme for heart and T.B. patients

3632. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether a new insurance scheme for cancer victims has recently been introduced by the Life Insurance Corporation of India;

(b) whether such scheme will be introduced for the heart and T.B. patients of the country; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Cancer Medical Expenses Policy has been introduced by the New India Assurance Company Limited (a subsidiary of the General Insurance Corporation of India) and not by the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

(b) and (c) General Insurance industry has already introduced a Hospitalisation and Domiciliary Hospitalisation Benefit Policy with effect from 1st June, 1985. The policy covers various illnesses/diseases including Coronary Artery diseases/ Coronary Bypass Surgery, Open Heart Surgery, T.B. (including Pulmonary T.B.) etc. The overall benefits including additional benefits permissible under the above policy vary from Rs. 7,000/- for Category V to Rs. 37,800/- for Category I with corresponding total annual premium rates per person varying from Rs. 72/ to Rs. 378/.

[*Translation*]

Income tax survey of Gorakhpur and Basti districts

3633. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income tax department have conducted a detailed survey in Gorakhpur and Basti districts of Uttar Pradesh to unearth the black money;

(b) if so the details thereof and if not, whether Government propose to conduct such a survey there; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Survey is a constant process and survey operations are being taken in accordance with the long term Survey Action Plan. In the Districts of Gorakhpur and Basti fifty premises were surveyed recently.

[*English*]

Hard coke furnaces operating under CIL

3634. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD

YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of hard coke furnaces operating under the Coal India Limited.

(b) the number of hard-coke furnaces which were operating during the month of July, 1983;

(c) the number of hardcoke furnaces which were operating during the year 1984-85;

(d) whether it is a fact that most of the furnances have been closed down; and

(e) if so, the justification therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e) In July, 1983 about 2200 hard coke ovens were operating in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Central Coalfields Ltd. and Eastern Coalfields Ltd., which are subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. After August 1983 about 1000 ovens were closed as enough raw coking coal was not available for supply to steel plants after washing and some of the ovens required renovation. At present about 1400 ovens are working.

Powerloom under new Textile Policy

3635. SHRI P. R. KUMAR-MANGALAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether under the new Textile Policy, any person can establish a powerloom ;

(b) if not, the eligible person who will be allowed to set up new powerlooms ;

(c) whether existing handloom weavers are permitted to in for powerloom weaving ;

(d) the condition and procedure therefor ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (e) There are not specific restrictions regarding eligibility of persons for setting up powerlooms under the new Textile Policy.

The requirements of compulsory registrations and locational guidelines will, however, apply to such powerlooms.

Ban on import of raw silk

3636. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Karnataka have requested the Union Government to put a ban on import of raw silk in the country ;

(b) whether under the advance licensing scheme, the import of raw silk is still continuing ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the silk industry in the country particularly in Karnataka has been adversely affected by import of raw silk; and

(d) if so, the action contemplated by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Silk Industry in the country including Karnataka has not been adversely affected by import of raw silk.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Coir Products

3637. SHRI. V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether adequate attention is not being paid to exploring new markets as well as exploiting fully the existing markets for coir products ;

(b) the details of the export of coir products year-wise during the past three years ;

(c) whether any special efforts are being made to boost export of coir products and find new markets ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) to (d) No, Sir. Adequate attention is being paid in this regard.

The various steps taken to step up exports of coir and coir products and to find new markets include sending trade delegations, conducting market studies and market research, releasing advertisements in foreign trade magazines, distribution of publicity material, participation in fairs in major markets, quality improvement and grant of cash compensatory support.

The exports of coir products viz., coir mats, mattings, rugs and carpets during the last three years have been as follows :—

(Provisional)

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)
1982-83	14 00
1983-84	13.50
1984-85	16.50

(Source : Coir Board)

[Translation]

Customer service in nationalised banks

3638 SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA :

SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given some directions to nationalised banks to improve the customer service ; and

(b) if so, when and the details thereof?

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

(b) The Finance Minister, in a meeting with the Chief Executives of public sector banks on 17.7.1985, asked them particularly to involve themselves in the task of improving customer service. The Chief Executives of the Banks have been addressed on 29.7.85 to :—

- (a) evolve norms in regard to time required for completion of specific transactions and educate customers about these norms ;
- (b) take measures to introduce "May I help you" desks at all branches having a large staff, say 30 or so ;
- (c) make customer service an integral part of the training programmes ;
- (d) evolve a system of regular periodical contact between banks and customers/customer organisations/ State Governments at senior levels. To involve Unions/ Associations etc., in the task ;
- (e) evolve machinery and procedure for redressal of customer grievances, by keeping complaint boxes at branches and ensuring that the complaints are looked into expeditiously at all levels.

Implementation of IRDP in States

3639. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the former Minister of Finance vide his letter No. 2828/FM/83 dated 3rd August 1983 to all the States Chief Ministers had issued instruction regarding implementation of IRDP ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the names of the States which have complied with these instructions ;

(d) whether Government of Bihar have not implemented these instructions ; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the States Government for policy of negligence ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In his letter dated 3.8.1983 addressed to Chief Ministers of all States, the then Finance Minister had *inter alia* advised setting up of Advisory Committees at the block level to help identification of the beneficiaries of Integrated Rural Development Programme and also assist the nationalised banks in the proper implementation of the programme.

(c) to (e) Replies have been received from 15 States namely Sikkim, Kerala, Manipur, Bihar, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Four States namely Haryana, West Bengal, Gujarat and Rajasthan have stated that the present set up evolved in the States appears to be working satisfactorily and there was no need to disturb it for the present. Government of Karnataka has implemented the suggestion in full. The other States have generally welcomed the advice and have stated that they were getting it examined. The suggestions made to the State Govts. were only of a recommendatory and advisory nature.

[English]

Payment of House Rent Allowance to workers of NTC Mills in Maharashtra.

3640. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of NTC mills in Bombay are being paid house rent allowance from April, 1983 whereas it is not so paid to the workers of NTC mills in the rest of Maharashtra ;

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination ;

(c) whether Government are aware that the Government of Maharashtra are paying such house rent allowance to all the workers of their mills of Maharashtra State Textile Corporation, and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to remove this anomaly ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. House Rent Allowance is being paid to the workers of NTC mills on the basis of the recommendations of the Deshpande Committee. These recommendations were made with regard to the workers of textile mills in Bombay and not the work outside Bombay.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since the basis for this payment applied only to workers in Bombay there is no anomaly in not extending it to mills outside Bombay.

[Translation]

Increase in outlay of integrated rural development programme.

3641. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the institution relating to studies on black money has reported that 40 to 50 per cent amount out of the amount being spent on development works especially Integrated Rural Development Programme is converted into black money through the window of corruption ;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the outlay for Integrated Rural Development Programme and other such Programmes during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(c) if so, whether Government have formulated any scheme to bridge the gap between targets and achievements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Leakages from Government and public sector spending has been identified by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy as one of the causes of black economy in their report on "Aspects of black economy in India." The long term fiscal policy shall take note of all the suggestions which will emerge from the public debate which has been sought on the subject.

[English]

Adverse remarks given by RBI against peerless general finance and investment Company Ltd.

3642. SHRI C.P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Reserve Bank of India gave an adverse remarks against the accounting system of the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are undertaking to safeguard the interest of the workers and investors ?

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

(b) In terms of the provisions of Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act, 1978, the Peerless General Finance and Investment Co. Ltd. was served with a notice on August 10, 1979 by the Government of West Bengal who are entrusted with the implementation of the provisions of the Banning Act, to wind up its business. The company filed a writ petition in the High Court of Calcutta on September 3, 1979 challenging the applicability of the Act to its business and obtained a stay. Union Government and Reserve Bank of India and the Government of West Bengal are the respondents in the Writ Petition. The matter is still pending in the Court.

Inadquate flow of credit to rural artisans

3643. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a survey by the Reserve Bank of India which found that the flow of credit to rural artisans from the banking system was inadequate;

(b) if so, whether corrective steps have been taken;

(c) whether the changing pattern of rural jobs and the fall in demand for the goods of rural artisans are some of the considerations in banks denying credit to rural artisans;

(d) if so, whether attempt is proposed to be made to help rural artisans to face the changes in the demand for their products and skills; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e) RBI conducted a sample study in 1980 covering the banks assistance to artisans, village and cottage industries which revealed that progress in extending credit facilities to these categories was not satisfactory enough. The RBI then issued detailed instructions to all scheduled commercial banks to rectify the loopholes observed during the study. The progress made by banks in extending composite loans to artisans, village and cottage industries is set out below.

Year	No. of units financed	Amounts in crores of rupees
		Total outstanding amount
1979	296000	51.44
1980	346000	69.38
1981	432000	98.42
1982	439000	109.85
1983	640000	185.24

In areas where the pattern of rural jobs are changing and there is a fall in demand for goods produced by rural artisans, banks in consultation with their staff in production and marketing management, suggest changes in product lines and product range with a view to meet the changed patterns in taste and demand. Agencies like District industries development corporations are also involved in helping the artisans, village and cottage industries through expert advice, provision of appropriate infrastructure including marketing infrastructure, upgradation of skills, etc.

[Translation]

Complaints about efficiency of rural banks

3644. SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints through various sources regarding the working and efficiency of rural Banks; and

(b) if so, the details of these complaints and the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Government have received complaints from public including Members of Parliament, Legislative Assemblies regarding the working of Regional Rural Banks. These complaints mainly relate to harrassment to public, irregularities in appointment of staff, corruption in the disbursement of loans etc. The complaints are promptly enquired into and suitable remedial action is taken wherever found necessary.

[English]

Money lost by Parliament Street branch of Allahabad Bank in dealing with Amar India International

3645. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of money Allahabad Bank, Parliament Street Branch, New Delhi lost in their dealing with Amar India International, New Delhi;

(b) who was responsible for this loss;

(c) whether special concessions, waiving normal banking norms were given to Amar India International;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the officers who were responsible for this loss to Allahabad Bank; and

(e) whether a C.B.I. enquiry is pending in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e) Allahabad Bank has reported that it has certain outstanding advances against M/s Amar India International, New Delhi. For a part of the outstanding, a claim has been filed by it with the Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation. A civil suit against the company and the guarantors has also been filed in the Delhi High Court for the recovery of the amount. In terms of the statutes governing banks and the customs and usages prevalent amongst them, further details about the individual constituents of the banks and their affairs cannot be divulged. However, the bank has referred the matter to Central Bureau of Investigation which has registered a case for investigation. Further action including action against staff, if any, will be taken by the bank in the light of the CBI's report, when received.

Loans to marginal farmers from cooperative and nationalised banks

3647. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank is proposed to be instructed to remit the old debt of marginal farmers in the co-operative banks and other banks considering that very substantial number of marginal farmers are being deprived of the opportunity

of further loans from co-operatives banks and nationalised banks due to being defaulters as they are unable to repay the old debts often surpassing the principal by several times due to interest; and

(b) if not, whether an alternative proposal is under consideration to remit the interest of the old debts due from the marginal farmers in banks, including the cooperative banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Existing stabilisation arrangements in the cooperative credit structure do provide for relief to the agriculturists through various measures like conversion of short-term loans into medium term loans, rescheduling of debts, etc. This is, however, subject to the State Government's declaration of the area as affected by natural calamities. Conversion and rescheduling saves the farmers from being defaulters. However, to protect the interest of small and marginal farmers, RBI has as early as March, 1980 issued a circular to all the States advising them that, if the defaults do not exceed 10% of the eligibility under short-term agricultural loan in cases which arose on account of circumstances beyond the control of the borrowers, they can be provided with fresh finance by the societies concerned at their discretion from out of their own resources. In June 83, NABARD has further liberalised the process according to which the PACs which do not have their own resources to finance such members could be provided with finance by the district central cooperative banks and state cooperative banks.

[Translation]

Licences issued to firms for export of basmati rice

3648. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of firms issued licences for export of basmati rice during the last three years and the quantum of rice exported by them country-wise and the rates at which exported;

(b) whether some exporters have supplied adulterated basmati rice, which has been rejected and returned by the concerned countries and if so, the names and address of those exporters and the action taken against them; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check such things in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Export of basmati rice is permitted under Open General Licence. For items, export of which is allowed under Open General Licence, no further licence is required to be issued. Exporter-wise data have, therefore, not been maintained.

(b) No consignment of basmati rice inspected by Export Inspection Agencies has been rejected and returned by foreign buyers on account of bad quality viz. adulteration of Basmati rice. Information in respect of cases where pre-shipment inspection was carried out by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Exporters of basmati rice are required to furnish a pre-shipment Inspection/Quality Control Certificate at the time of shipment to the Customs Authorities.

[English]

Indian construction projects in foreign countries

3649. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that India's construction project export is not picking up and is not being competitive in international market;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to promote the export of construction projects in the areas financed by World Bank, African Development Bank and Asian Development Bank in different countries of the world; and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the EXIM Bank have taken any steps to promote the construction contractors of India in the aforesaid field; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The decline in overseas construction projects executed by Indian companies is *inter alia* because of :

- (i) uncertainty and depression in the international oil market which has led to a slump in the construction activity in a number of countries,
- (ii) prolonged Iran-Iraq war;
- (iii) balance of payment problems in a number of countries; and
- (iv) increased competition from capital surplus countries which are offering very easy financial terms.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to promote exports of projects financed by multilateral financial institutions, the efforts taken *inter alia* include :

- (i) Indian Missions abroad render assistance to companies in procuring tender documents and in gathering information relating to the projects funded by WB, ADB and AFDB.
- (ii) Engineering Exports Promotion Council/Overseas Construction Council of India/Association of Indian Engineering Industry disseminate project information among exporters through telexes, letters and also through their publications.
- (iii) Organising seminars/talks on the procurement policies of World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and African Development Bank (AFDB).
- (iv) A special cell has been constituted in the EXIM BANK for identifying multilateral agency financed

projected for increasing business share of Indian companies and for providing guidance to exporters on WB/APDB procedures/practices to increase scope for successful bidding.

- (v) Representative offices have been set up by EXIM BANK in Washington and Abidjan.
- (vi) Programmes to augment the management capabilities of the Indian construction industry.

**Period of loans converted from overdrafts
by states**

3650. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the period of loans which were converted from overdrafts will be extended in the case of economically weak States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Import of steel

3651. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is possible to fix a date after which import of steel could be stopped for some time, if not, for ever ;

(b) if so, when ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The import of steel depends upon the steel production capacity within the country. This in turn is dependent

upon the level of investment in steel capacity in coming years. As it is not possible to assess the likely level of investment in steel capacity in coming years, it is not possible to fix a date by which the import of steel can be stopped.

Wage Revision in Public Sector Undertakings

3652. SHRI S KRISHNA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for wage revision in Central Public Sector Undertakings ;

(b) the highest and lowest percentage wage revision allowed in the Central Public Sector during 1984-85 ;

(c) whether Government are aware that on many such revisions, the wage hikes were not related to work performance and productivity ;

(d) whether B.P.E. guidelines have been strictly followed in wage revisions ; and

(e) if not, the particulars of Central Public Sector Undertakings in which were departures made and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) No specific criteria for wage revision in Central Public Undertakings have been laid down and communicated to the Administrative Ministries and public sector enterprises.

(b) The highest and lowest percentages of wage revision allowed in Central public undertakings during 1984-85 are 19.6% and 10% respectively.

(c) Wage negotiations are settled without any direct correlation to work performance and productivity.

(d) No specific guidelines have been issued by the BPE to be followed at the time of wage revision.

(e) In view of reply to (d) above, the question at (e) does not arise but there cannot be uniformity in the wage settlement among various undertakings due to historical, locational and other reasons.

**Aluminium Project in Ratnagiri District,
Maharashtra**

3653. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:
SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI:

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector aluminium project in the Ratnagiri District of the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra could not make progress because of the failure of the Maharashtra Government to assure the adequate supply of electricity needed for the project ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take decision to convert the project into a one for the manufacture of alumina which will require less supply of electricity as compared to the project for manufacture of aluminium ; and

(c) if the Maharashtra Government assures adequate supply of electricity required for the alumina project, whether the project will be started expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The implementation of the Ratnagiri Project depends upon availability of bauxite of required quantity and quality to sustain an integrated Alumina/Aluminium Plant of an economic size. Presently, an appraisal of the bauxite reserves in the Kolhapur area, based on the assessment report recently submitted by Mineral Exploration Limited has been taken up by the Government.

**Restriction in repatriation of profits of
multi-national companies from India**

3654. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to impose restriction on repatriation of profits of multinational companies from India to abroad if the profit exceeds 10 per cent particularly in case of multinational cigarette and hotel companies ;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce their shares further ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No Sir.

(b) As per Government policy, once a foreign investment is approved, no restrictions are placed on the remittance abroad of profits and dividends (subject of course, to payment of Indian taxes) by the foreign investor.

(c) and (d) Cases concerning dilution of non-resident interest in FERA companies have been decided by Reserve Bank of India and a majority of companies have already complied with the directives issued by the Bank under Section 29 of FERA, 1973. Barring a few companies, the cases of all others have been finally decided. Requisite adjustment in foreign equity levels wherever necessary, has also been brought about.

[Translation]

New City Allowance Policy for Class III and IV Employees of L.I.C.

3655. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new city allowance policy has been formulated by the Union and Officers of the LIC by cancelling the uniform rate of city allowance being paid to the Class III and IV employees ;

(b) if so, whether he has received any representation from the employees' organisations in regard to its feasibility, and

(c) if so, the action being taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Pursuant to the understanding reached between the L.I.C. Management and the representatives of the Employees' Unions the Government issued a Notification on 11.4.1985 altering the terms and conditions of service of Class III and Class IV employees of L.I.C. City Compensatory Allowance is one of the items revised upward. As against a fixed amount of Rs. 20/-p.m. payable in respect of certain specified cities, the revision provided for increased amounts upto a maximum of Rs. 140/-p.m.

(b) & (c) No representation has been received for changing the revised policy relating to payment of City Compensatory Allowance. However, representations were received for adding satellite areas like Ghaziabad and Faridabad in Delhi for the purpose of payment of City Compensatory Allowance, but no decision has been taken in the matter.

[English]

Indo-Italian joint ventures

3656. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there is a move to have more Indo-Italian joint ventures, joint bidding, joint tendering and sub-contracting ; and

(b) if so, the distinct advantage that accrue to India in terms of increase in trade and earning foreign exchange by these arrangements ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) In terms of bilateral trade negotiations, an emphasis is often laid on direct trade in commodities as well as participation in projects and joint ventures. A proposal for Indo-Italian Joint ventures, joint bidding, joint tendering and subcontracting was discussed by a delegation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

which visited Rome in June, 1985. One of the subjects discussed pertained to possibilities of establishing Indo-Italian Joint ventures in third countries.

(b) Such proposals are pursued on the basis of mutuality of interest and offer scope for export of goods and services from the country.

Industrial cooperation between India and South Korea

3657. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently an agreement was signed in New Delhi between India and South Korea for industrial cooperation and promotion of trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed for increasing the trade relations between the two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps for increasing trade relations between the two countries include identification of Republic of Korea as a thrust market; identification of thrust commodities for exports; signing of an agreement to avoid double taxation and seeking tariff concessions under the Bangkok Agreement.

GATT failed to arrive at any agreement at geneva meeting

3658. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the recently held Geneva meeting on General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) failed to arrive at any agreement in a new round of world trade negotiations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the stand taken by India at this meeting; and

(d) how U.S. leading a block mostly industrialised countries blocked the efforts to launch a new round of world trade talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) At the GATT Council Meeting held in Geneva on 17th and 18th July, 1985 the question of convening a meeting of Senior officials to hold preliminary discussions on a possible new round of multilateral trade negotiations was discussed. India as well as a few other developing countries felt that the meeting of the Senior officials in GATT should discuss the issues relating to negotiations on trade in goods only. The major developed countries on the other hand did not wish the parameters of the meeting to be defined as their intention is to cover inter-alia the services sector in the negotiations even though it is outside the jurisdictional competence of GATT. No agreement could, therefore, be reached on the convening of a meeting of Senior Officials.

Pre-take over liabilities of taken over units of West Bengal

3659. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to pay for or take the pretake over liabilities of the takenover units of West Bengal;

(b) whether easy and more assistance from the Reserve Bank of India and other banks and financial institutions will be made available to the sick and closed industrial units of West Bengal for their revival; and

(c) whether freight equalisation policy will be abolished by Government and/or some benefits be extended to carry raw materials of national importance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) According to

the current policy of the Government, in the event of nationalisation of industrial units taken over under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, the entire pre-take over dues, including interest, of banks and financial institutions are required to be fully protected by the Government nationalising the unit. This policy is uniformly applicable to all cases of nationalisation of industrial units either by the Central Government or by any of the State Governments.

(b) In accordance with the policy of the Government, banks and financial institutions are expected to carry out viability studies of sick industrial units & nurse such of those units as are considered potentially viable. In the case of viable sick units, banks and institutions are expected to formulate suitable rehabilitation programmes, which may consist of grant of need-based credit facilities and concessions such as reduced rate of interest, lower margin, funding of overdue interest and rescheduling of past dues, etc. depending upon the merits of the individual case. The viable sick industrial units in the State of West Bengal which may be taken up for rehabilitation would also receive such assistance and be extended such concessions as may be warranted by the merits of each individual case.

(c) In the light of recommendations made by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee), it has been decided by the Government to phase out gradually the existing freight equalisation in respect of commodities like cement and steel subject to subsidisation of transport for remote, inaccessible and isolated areas.

Supply of Coal to Maharashtra

3660. SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the total quantity of coal allotted to Maharashtra particularly for greater Bombay during 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : No allotment is made by the Union

Government for different States, except in the case of soft coke supplies. The supplies of coal are made by both rail and road. The movement of coal by rail takes place within the ceiling limits fixed by the Railways for the various sponsoring authorities. In addition to the ceiling limits fixed by the Railways for movement by rail, Coal India Limited are permitting the sponsoring authorities to recommend additional quantities which cannot be accommodated within the ceiling limits of wagons, for movement by road.

During the year 1984-85, total quantity of 106.61 lakh tonnes of coal/coke was despatched to Maharashtra State. The despatch figures for greater Bombay alone are not readily available.

Abolition of excise duty on cement

3661. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cement industry has urged Government for complete abolition of excise duty on cement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Cement Manufacturers' Association have made a representation to the Government wherein a request has, *inter-alia*, been made for complete exemption from excise duty for cement units coming into production during the Seventh Plan period, for the initial period of 10 years.

(c) The representation of the Association has been referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices, who are looking into the various issues raised by the Association, in their representation, including the request for exemption from excise duty.

Performance of banks priority lending

3662. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a need to improve the performance of banks in the sphere of priority lending, direct finances, for agriculture and lending to the weaker sections;

(b) if so, the system evolved and guidelines sent to the banks in this direction; and

(c) the programme of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has laid down norms for lending to priority sector, direct finance for agriculture and lending to weaker sections. The advances to priority sector have increased from Rs. 441 crores in 1969 (i.e. at the time of nationalisation) to Rs. 17971 crores at the end of March '85. This constitutes 41.3% of the total bank credit as against 14.6% in 1969. Performance of public sector banks in lending to priority sector and sub-sectors was as follows as at the end of March, 1985 :—

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Outstanding advances to the priority sector	17971.14
% to total credit	41.3
(ii) Outstanding direct advances to agriculture	6161.72
% to total credit	14.2
(iii) Outstanding advances to weaker sections	4072.19
% to total credit	9.4

Based on recommendations of a Working Group on the Role of Banks in implementation of 20 point programme, RBI had advised the banks to achieve the following targets for priority sector lending:

(i) Banks should attain by March, 1985 a level of 40% of the credit to priority sector (which has been achieved).

(ii) Banks should attain a level of 15% of total credit for direct advances to agriculture by March, 1985 which should be increased to 16% by March, 1987.

(iii) Advances to weaker sections should reach 10% of total advances by March, 1985.

Survey for coal deposits

3663. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the areas surveyed during the years 1984 and 1985 (upto July) for coal deposits;

(b) whether new areas were found having coal;

(c) if so, the estimated quantity of deposits therein; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) During field seasons 1983-84 and 1984-85 Geological Survey of India conducted regional exploration by mapping and drilling in 21 Coalfields in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa and West Bengal.

(b), (c) & (d) New areas having coal are Birbhum District in West Bengal and Ib River Coalfield of Orissa Reserves of coal estimated are as follows :-

Birbhum District (West Bengal)	
Dewanganj Harinsingh Sector	- 26.05 m. t.,
Khagra, Joydev, Kenduli Sector	- 13.80 m. t.,
Deocha, Pachami, Dholkhata Sector	- 31.71 m. t.,
Orissa	
Hingir Basin in Ib River Coalfields	- 1629.61 m. t.,
Total—	1701.17 m.

Power crisis in Rourkela steel plants

3664. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rourkela Steel Plant has been facing serious power crisis;

(b) the present rate of power generation of the captive power plant of Rourkela Steel Plant;

(c) the total Megawatt power supplied by Orissa State Electricity Board monthly (in the last six months); and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the power requirement of Rourkela Steel Plant ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NAWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The captive power plant at Rourkela Steel Plant is presently generating at 58 MW (avg.).

(c) Average power supplied from its own generation by Orissa State Electricity Board to Rourkela Steel Plant during the last six months is given below :-

Month	Actual Supply (MW)
February, 1985	9.9
March, 1985	6.9
April, 1985	11.4
May, 1985	28.0
June, 1985	23.0
July, 1984	15.5

(d) Assistance has been provided to the plant by obtaining power from the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board. The Orissa grid is also getting power from the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board. The Captive generation at the steel plant is maximised. As a long term measure, a 2x60 MW captive power plant is being set up at the steel plant and efforts are

being made to commission its first unit by March, 1986.

High cost of Indian engineering goods

3665. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESHWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian engineering goods are not competitive because of their high cost of manufacture ;

(b) the factors that contribute to the high cost of production especially when Indian labour is cheap and India is in no way deficient in raw materials;

(c) whether one of the factors for the Indian engineering goods being costly is the low purchasing power of Indian rupee in terms of currency of other countries; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government to step up the exports of engineering goods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Some of the Indian engineering goods are uncompetitive in the International markets mainly on account of high cost of inputs, inadequate infrastructural facilities and uneconomic scale of production.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government have taken a series of measures for boosting the export of engineering goods. These, *inter-alia*, include continuation and strengthening of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme, liberalisation of imports for export production, link deals for exports and lines of credits to some countries.

[*Translation*]

Concentration of black money in purchase and sale of houses in posh colonies of Delhi

3666. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State :

(a) whether during the last five years there has been concentration of black money by way of purchase and sale of houses in posh colonies in New Delhi areas such as, Safdarjung Enclave, Panchsheel Park, Greater Kailash, Nehru Place, Jor Bagh, South Extension Part I-II, New Friends Colony, Green park, Hauz Khas etc.

(b) if so, whether Government propose to conduct a survey regarding the sale and purchase of all such houses and collect the figures from the Registration Office and Compare the same with their market prices and see how the sale and purchase deeds were executed or find out who are residing in these houses in place of original owners, by executing power of attorney; and

(c) whether a special cell will be set up to unearth such black money.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, specific instances have come to the notice. Survey is a constant process and action is being taken in accordance with the long term action plan.

Increase in price of Iron

3667. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the wholesale per tonne rate of iron in 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981 and the rate that is obtaining at present;

(b) the reasons for this rapid increase in its prices;

(c) whether prices of iron have not affected the country's market;

(d) whether its market can be stabilised only by controlling its prices; and

(e) if so, the action being taken by Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NAWAR SINGH) : (a) The railhead station prices of foundry grade pig iron (L.M.-4) produced by the integrated steel plants have been as follows :-

Date	Price (Rs. Tonne)
20.8.1965	279
1.8.1971	438
1.4.1981	1425
Since 21.2.1985	2690

The statutory control on prices of pig iron was lifted in August, 1965. Prices for periods prior to this are being ascertained.

(b) The increase in prices, of pig iron has been on account of the increased cost of production due to increase in prices of raw materials, power, wages and other inputs, increased duties and levies imposed by the Joint Plant Committee.

(c) to (e) Apart from price adequate and timely availability is important for stabilising the market for pig iron. Efforts are continuously made to ensure adequate availability in time. For this purpose imports of pig iron are also arranged to supplement domestic production, if necessary.

Illegal mining of bauxite and coal in Bihar

3668 SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the private companies operating in bauxite mines of Lohardaga, Gumla and Palamau districts in Bihar are extracting bauxite illegally in excess of the quantity prescribed in the agreement reached with Government;

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

(c) whether Government are also aware of the fact that coal worth crores of rupees is being extracted illegally from the coal mines in Chandwa and Balumath blocks in Palamau district in Bihar; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps being taken by Government to prevent it ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Restructuring of IRDP and NREP

3669. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister and the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India have recently expressed their dissatisfaction with the present structure of the IRDP, NREP and similar programmes;

(b) whether it is proposed to restructure the programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The Prime Minister had observed that Integrated Rural Development Programme has not been able to give enough benefit to the poorest beneficiaries. Although beneficiaries who were not the very poor have crossed the poverty line but the poorest among them have not been able to do so with one dose of assistance. The Governor, RBI while appreciating the role placed by banks in supporting IRDP had mentioned about certain shortcomings in the implementation of programme brought out in the studies made by RBI and NABARD. The programme is kept under periodical review and suitable changes are made whenever necessary. During the Seventh Plan period it is proposed to provide second dose of assistance, subject to the ceiling limit of subsidy, to the beneficiaries who could not cross the poverty line with the help of first dose.

Decrease in value of savings as a result of fall in value of rupee

3670. SHRI M. SUBHA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rates of interest allowed on various Provident Funds like G.P.F., C.P.F., E.P.F., Coal Mines Provident Fund, etc.;

(b) whether due to fall in the value of rupee the real value of the savings of the employees has decreased; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/contemplated to ensure that in real terms their savings are not eroded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The rate of interest allowed on various Provident Funds during the current year are as under:

GPF/CPF	EPF	CMPF	PPF
10.50%	10.15%	10.50%	10.00%

(b) & (c) In order to protect the real value of savings, Government have raised the interest rates on various Provident Funds from time to time. Government have also taken a number of steps on a wide front to control inflation. The main thrust of these measures continues to be an effective demand and supply management including enforcement of fiscal discipline and keeping the aggregate liquidity in the system under control.

Award of Contract for Thermal Power Station of Neyveli Lignite Corporation

3671. SHRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the commissioning of first stage of thermal power station of Neyveli Lignite Corporation has been delayed due to delay in the

execution of boiler contract awarded to a Hungarian company which is licensee of a West German company under the guarantees and undertakings by the West German Company :

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same West German company is now being considered by Neyveli Lignite Corporation for award of contract for the second stage of thermal power station for which the boiler is to be built by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for considering the same company when the first stage has not been commissioned so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited have been entrusted with the responsibility for the manufacture of the major components of Thermal Power Station II (Stage II) with design engineering assistance for the Steam Generators from West Germany and import of milling and firing plants. Bids were invited by BHEL from three West German firms approved by KFW, the West German financing agency, for the imported portion of the work. The West German firm, who was licensor of the Hungarian contractor for Thermal Power Station Stage I, is one of the three firms whose bids are under evaluation by BHEL. BHEL is being assisted by Neyveli Lignite Corporation and the Retainer Consultants appointed for the purpose. The final decision will take into account with all relevant factors.

Spinning Mills.

3672. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Will the Minister* of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of spinning mills for which letter of intents have been given, but have not yet gone into construction ; State-wise, details thereof ;

(b) whether a cooperative spinning mill for the rehabilitation of refugees has

been given letter of intent for starting at Nandyal in kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government for helping expeditious construction of spinning mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) 30 letters of intent for spinning mills are valid at present but information about the extent of construction is not available since such information is furnished by the parties at the time of asking for C.O.B. licence.

(b) A letter of intent has been issued to M/s Nandyal Cooperative Spinning Mills Ltd., for the establishment of a new undertaking at Nandyal in Kurnool District of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) The National Cooperative Development Corporation provides assistance to the State Governments for contributing towards the share capital of cooperative spinning mills.

Import of bank note paper

3673. SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have imported a huge quantity of bank note paper from abroad ; and

(b) if so, the number of metric tonnes of paper imported during the year 1984-85 and the quantity likely to be imported in the remaining part of the year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government imported 1,750 metric tonnes of bank note paper in 1984-85 and have contracted to import 5,500 metric tonnes of such paper in 1985-86.

[Translation]

Avenues of promotions to employees of nationalised banks

3674. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether very few avenues of promotions are available to the employees in all the nationalised subsidiary banks of State Bank of India such as State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore etc. as a result of which discontentment is spreading among them ; and

(b) if so, the measures being taken to remove it and if not the factual position in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) State Bank of India has reported that a number of promotional opportunities are available to employees/officers at various levels in the subsidiary banks. The bank has further reported that it is not aware of any discontentment among the employees of subsidiary banks on this account.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Shellac and Seedlac

3675. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of exports of shellac and seedlac from India to five regular buyer foreign countries during 1984-85 ;

(b) how does it compare with the export in the year 1983-84 ; and

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to increase the export of shellac and seedlac in the coming years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

(c) Government have taken measures publicity campaign and distribution of to increase production and supply broodlac to the cultivators. of lac for exports. These measures include

Statement

Exports of Seedlac and Sheellai from India to five regular foreign buyers countries during 1984-85 and comparative exports during 1983 84 were as under :—

	1984-85				1983-84			
	(Estimates)				(Estimates)			
	Shellac		Seedlac		Shellac		Seedlac	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
U.K.	275	1.47	10	0.08	379	0.86	6	0.
USA	1606	8.91	122	0.50	695	1.69	117	0.
West Germany.	779	3.90	161	0.61	620	1.40	508	1.
USSR	100	0.57	—	—	743	1.77	—	1
A.R.E. (Egypt)	269	2.00	—	—	573	1.22	—	1
Total :	3029	16 852	293	1.19	3010	6.94	631	

Opening of branches of nationalised banks in Orissa

3676. SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) names of nationalised banks, number of branches they have, district-wise in Orissa and number of branches to be opened by them in the near future ; and

(b) the action taken by his Ministry to ensure opening of banks in Orissa by all the nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The particulars of bank offices functioning in Orissa as at the end of March, 1985 and the licences pending with them for opening offices in the State were as under :—

	Number of offices	Number of pending licences
1	2	3
1. State Bank of India	345	12

	1	2	3
2. Associate Banks of State Bank of India		2	1
3. Nationalised Banks		582	37
4. Private Sector Banks	3		—
5. Regional Rural Banks		716	74
		1648	124

Districtwise and bankwise details are given in the statement below.

(b) The banks have been allowed time upto 30.9.85 for opening branches against the pending licences/authorisations. With a view to expediting opening of branches by banks at the allotted centres, Reserve Bank of India, has set up Task Forces consisting of representative of Reserve Bank of India NABARD and the concerned State Governments at each of its Regional Office.

6. Canara Bank	—	—	6	3	4(1)	—	—	—	—	1(2)	—	4(1)	1	2	21(4)
7. Central Bank of India	2(1)	1	7(3)	—	2	1	—(2)	—	—	—(1)	—	4(1)	5(1)	3	25(9)
8. Corporation Bank	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
9. Dena Bank	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
10. Indian Bank	—	—	10(2)	—	9	—	—	2	—	—	2(1)	2	1	1	27(3)
11. Indian Overseas Bank	5	1	4(1)	4	10	4	—	13	—	—	—	9(1)	1	4	55(2)
12. New Bank of India	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	8
13. Oriental Bank of Commerce	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
14. Punjab & Sind Bank	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
15. Punjab National Bank	2	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	2	13
16. Syndicate Bank	1	—	8	—	5	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	1	20
17. Union Bank of India	1	—	6	2	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	3	5	2	25
18. United Bank of India	10(2)	—	22(3)	4	8	—	1(1)	1(1)	9	—	—	8	2	10	75(7)
19. United Commercial Bank	26	1	31	27	6	2	2	—	—	—	6(2)	21	9	8	139(2)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
20. Vijaya Bank	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total of												1	—	1	5
III	60(3)	5(1)	131(12)	44	80(2)	11	25(5)	23(3)	32(4)	9(3)	85(3)	35(1)	42(1)	582(37)	
Total of															
I, II & III	82(3)	21(3)	173(14)	65(1)	115(4)	36	33(6)	56(2)	47(4)	38(5)	120(3)	62(2)	82(3)	933(50)	
IV. Regional															
Rural Banks	56(5)	62(5)	119(7)	33(11)	67(4)	49(8)	31(6)	86(—)	45(9)	4(1)	82(16)	67(2)	15	716(74)	
21. Private Sec- tor Banks	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
GRAND															
TOTAL	138(8)	83(8)	204(21)	98(12)	182(8)	85(8)	64(12)	142(2)	92(13)	42(6)	202(19)	129(4)	97(3)	1648(124)	

Note : Figures in brackets indicate licences pending with banks as on date.

Opening of New Bank Branch at Menur Instead of Dongli Village, by Syndicate Bank Management

3677. SHRI T. BALAGOUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Syndicate Bank got licence/clearance from Reserve Bank of India for opening a new branch at Dongli village, Madhnoor Block, Nizamabad district of Andhra Pradesh ;

(b) whether subsequently Syndicate Bank Management changed its original plans to open the bank's branch at Dongli and instead opened the branch at Menur in the same District ;

(c) if so, under what circumstances and how RBI agreed for the change of location of bank's branch from Dongli to Menur ; and

(d) the reasons for Syndicate Bank Management's decision to change its original plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has set up a Task Force consisting of representatives of Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and the concerned State Government at each of its Regional Offices. The Task Force has *inter-alia* been entrusted with the work of considering requests for substitution of the centres allotted to banks where they could not open offices due to non-availability of infrastructural facilities, potential etc., by other suitable centres. Syndicate Bank's proposal for substitution of the centre Dongli by another unbanked centre Menur was approved by the Task Force set up at Reserve Bank of India's Hyderabad Regional Office. The bank has opened its office at Menur on 29.3.85.

Seizure of Gold from Air India Employees at Delhi Airport

3678 : SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Customs Enforcement Staff at Delhi Airport apprehended two Air India employees on the night of 14th July, 1985 and seized from them 3 kgs. of gold ;

(b) if so, the particulars of the Air India employees apprehended ; and

(c) the action taken against them and other employees involved in smuggling contraband items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) On 14th/15th July, 1985 the Customs authorities at Delhi Airport intercepted one Shri Daya Ram, an Air India employee who had attended Flight No. AI-301, which arrived from Hongkong/Bangkok, for cleaning. On suspicion when his personal check was conducted, 16 gold biscuits totally weighing about 1866 grammes valued at Rs. 3.92 lakhs (market value) recovered and seized under the Customs Act. Investigations revealed that the gold involved was handed over to Shri Daya Ram by one Shri Ram Das Chauhan, also an Air India employee, who had arrived from Bangkok by Flight No. AI-301.

(c) S/Shri Daya Ram and Ram Das Chauhan were arrested under the Customs Act and prosecution has been launched against them in the Court of Law. Besides initiating departmental proceedings for confiscation of smuggled gold and imposition of personal penalty on the persons involved in smuggling activities, in appropriate cases, preventive detention under the COFEPOSA Act is also resorted to.

Exploitation of coal, lead and zinc in Darjeeling, West Bengal

3679. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES and COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received proposals for exploiting the coal reserves and extracting lead and zinc in Darjeeling district of West Bengal ;

- (b) if so, the details of such proposals;
 (c) the present estimated coal, lead and zinc reserves in Darjeeling district; and
 (d) the reaction of Government to the proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
 (a) and (b) After considering the proposal of the State Government of West Bengal, approval of the Central Government was conveyed in February, 1985, under Section 5(2) (a) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, to the grant of Mining lease in favour of West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Limited for exploitation of coal in isolated small pockets in Bagrakote and Dalinkote areas in Darjeeling District of state of West Bengal over an area of 12.58 sq. kms. for a period of two years. No proposal for exploitation of lead and zinc in the Darjeeling District has, however, been received from the State Government of West Bengal.

(c) and (d) As per the report of Geological Survey of India (Sept. 1984), there is a reserve of 15 million tonnes of coal in the Darjeeling area. The Mineral Exploration has estimated the Lead/Zinc Ore reserves in the Malkhola Block of the Gorubathan-based metal deposit (Darjeeling Distt) at about 1 million tonnes with 7% metal contents.

Slipping down of Indian Banks in Ranking of world top banks.

3680. **SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :**
 Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the reputed London-based monthly "The Banker" monitored banks' performance for its annual ranking of world top banks ;

(b) whether leading Indian Banks slipped down in rankings last year as compared to their earlier rankings ;

(c) if so, which Indian banks so slipped in their ranking and to what extent ; and

(d) the details of steps, if any, taken to improve the performance of banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The ranking of banks as the top 500 banks of the World done by "The Banker" in its July, 1985 issue, is worked out in terms the value of assets of the banks in US Dollars. Any fluctuation in the Rupee/Dollar exchange rate, therefore, affects the *inter-se*, ranking of the banks.

The fall in the value of assets in terms of dollars in respect of some of the Indian banks during 1984, as compared to 1983 has been the contributory factor in the lower ranking of these banks by "The Banker" in its July, 1985 issue. These rankings of Indian bank figuring in the list of 1983 and 1984 are as follows :

Name of Bank	Ranking in "Banker"	
	1983	1984
State Bank of India	79	84
Bank of India	303	309
Bank of Baroda	293	325
Canara Bank	363	380
Syndicate Bank	442	444
United Commercial Bank	402	484

Investments by Non-Resident Indians in Setting up Mini-Steel Plants.

3681. **SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA :**
 Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that non-resident Indians, especially those in the Gulf countries, have great interest in investing in India ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to consider further liberalising the licensing policy for setting up of mini steel plants to attract investments from non-resident Indians in foreign countries ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) and (c) The industrial licensing policy for setting up of electric arc furnace units is proposed to be liberalised. The revised policy is expected to be announced soon.

Items for export to Afghanistan

3682. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently an Afghan delegation visited India and held extensive discussion with Indian counterparts;

(b) if so, the details regarding the items that have been decided to be exported to Afghanistan;

(c) whether there have been discussion on reviving the transport facilities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the agreement that has been signed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. An Afghan Trade Delegation visited India from 16th to 19th July, 1985.

(b) to (d) Both sides expressed their desire to take effective steps for promoting trade between the two countries in a more balanced manner. The Afghan side also agreed to increase its purchases of goods from India, subject to competitiveness, particularly through public sector undertakings. Besides, traditional items like tea and textiles, there is an export potential for other items, like vehicles and spare parts, cigarettes, drugs, soaps, tyres and tubes, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. Both sides noted with satisfaction the possibility of using the surface route through Odessa in addition to the present routes and have agreed to pursue this further.

Cooperation in economic development from Federal Republic of Germany

3683. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federal Republic of Germany has shown keenness to cooperate in economic development;

(b) whether Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister of Federal Republic of Germany had visited India in the month of July, 1985;

(c) if so, whether any agreement for providing technology to India has been decided upon; and

(d) if so, to what extent the Federal Republic of Germany has agreed to help Indian Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Federal Republic of Germany has been one of the traditional partners for India's economic development.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) In view of the answer at (c) above, the question does not arise.

Indo-Canada Trade

3684. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Canada trade has increased in 1984-85 (January, 84 to March 1985);

(b) if so, the trade position between these countries in 1984-85 and the percentage of increase over the preceding year (1983-84); and

(c) the steps taken to establish better trade and economic relations between

Canada and India in 1985-86 financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Based on provisional data available on financial year basis, India's total trade turnover (exports and imports) with Canada at Rs. 626.40 crores during 1984-85 registered an increase of 47.1% as compared to the total trade turnover of Rs. 425.83 crores during 1983-84.

(c) Various steps such as exchange of trade delegations, organisation of business conferences and seminars in India and Canada have been taken to establish better trade and economic relations with Canada.

Public sector enterprises employees

3685. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of employees in public sector enterprises during 1983-84 and 1984-85 (upto 31-3-85);

(b) the annual growth rate of such employment in public sector; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to increase the rate of growth in the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The details of employment in the Central Public Enterprises as on 31.3.1985 are not yet available. However, the details of employment yearwise commencing from

31.3.1971 to 31.3.1984 alongwith percentage growth over 1970-71 are available in Table 3 at page 326 of Chapter 23, Volume I of the Public Enterprises Survey 1983-84 placed on the Table of Lok Sabha on 15.3.1985.

(c) With additional investments during the 7th Plan period, the employment is also expected to increase.

Sanction of licences to nationalised banks for opening their branches in Himachal Pradesh

3686. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any of the nationalised banks have approached the Reserve Bank of India for the sanction of licences to set up branches of their banks in (i) Hamirpur, (ii) Una, (iii) Bilaspur, (iv) Mandi (v) Kangra in the Districts of Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of the places, district-wise for which the licences have been sanctioned alongwith the name of the bank; and

(c) the likely date by which the remaining licences would be sanctioned ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The following Public Sector Banks had during the period 1982-85 submitted applications to the Reserve Bank of India for opening branches in the districts in Himachal Pradesh shown against their names :—

Name of Bank	Name of Districts
1. State Bank of India	Hamirpur, Simla, Una and Kangra.
2. United Commercial Bank	
3. State Bank of Patiala	Hamirpur, Simla, Kangra and Mandi

4. Bank of Maharashtra	Simla
5. Bank of Baroda	Kangra
6. Bank of India	Hamirpur
7. Central Bank of India	Kangra & Una
8. Punjab National Bank	Simla, Kangra and Mandi.
9. Oriental Bank of Commerce	Kangra and Mandi.

(b) The required information is set out in the statement below.

(c) The question of opening more bank offices in the above mentioned districts will be considered on merits in the light of the branch licensing policy for the Seventh Five Year Plan Period which is being finalised.

Statement

Statement showing the details of centres allotted to the banks mentioned in the reply to Part (a) of the question.

District	Name of the Bank	Name of the centres allotted
Hamirpur	Punjab National Bank	Bhareri, Mair, Karur/Gouma, Chabutra, Salumi, Dera Pardl, Jungle Beri, Dhanced, Lambloo.
	State Bank of India	Bara
	United Commercial Bank	Uhal, Kashmir
	Central Bank of India	Hamirpur
Una	State Bank of India	Mehtapur
	Central Bank of India	Bhaira
	Punjab National Bank	Kangrat, Ghangari, Jowan, Thana Kalan, Poliyen-Prohitan, Pandoga, Saloh.
	United Commercial Bank	Dulehar, Thathal
Simla	United Commercial Bank	Jubharhatti, Pandranoo, Summerkot, Guma (Notikhad) Halog (Dhami), Dharampur, Kingal, Anti (Anu-Basa), Rampur Bus-hah, Tekleh Kupvi, Gumma, Dungarpur, Jangla, Dhamwari, Kufri.
Mandi	State Bank of India	Chatrokhari-Sundernagar
Kangra	State Bank of Patiala	Sidhbari
	Punjab National Bank	Thil, Kaloha
	State Bank of India	Ghorab, Damtal
	Central Bank of India	Jwalamukhi.

Transfer of officers in Oriental Bank of Commerce

3687. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any definite policy regulating the transfer of officers in the Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(b) if so, the brief outline thereof and whether it is applicable to office bearers of the All India Bank Officers Association employed in the bank;

(c) the number and particulars of officers who have stayed for over (i) 15 years (ii) 10 years in the bank; and

(d) the justification thereof and the reasons for disregarding the claims of other officers for transfer to Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Oriental Bank of Commerce has reported that subject to exigencies of work, an officer is ordinarily considered for transfer after he has worked in a branch for three to five years. Officers working on specialised duties and other specialist officers like Law Officers, Hindi Officers etc. are however not covered under the above policy as they are posted only in administrative offices. The bank has further reported that the above policy is equally applicable to the office bearers of All India Bank Officers Association employed in the Bank.

(c) There are quite a large number of officers with over 10 years/15 years service in the bank as a whole. Presumably information is sought as to how many officers have worked in the same branches at Delhi for over 10 years. If so, according to the information furnished by the bank, there is no officer in the Bank who has worked for more than 10 years continuously at the same branches in Delhi.

(d) The bank has also reported that requests of officers for transfer to Delhi are considered by it keeping in view the exigencies of requirements.

Disposal/auction of discarded vehicles

3688. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the rules for the disposal/auction of discarded vehicles;

(b) whether any public notice is given for the auctions and the period thereof; and

(c) the number of auctions held in the past three years including the current financial year and the number of vehicles disposed of category-wise during this period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) DGS&D arranges disposal of all surplus and obsolete stores including vehicles projected by Central Government Departments and Defence formations except Railways, where the book value of such stores exceeds Rs. 50,000/-. It does not undertake disposal of scrap and 'A' (Armed) Vehicles irrespective of the book value. From 1.1.85, the Civil stockholding Departments have been authorised to dispose of all their surplus stores themselves and now DGS&D is left with the disposal of Defence items only. These are disposed of on 'as is where is' basis either by Public Auction or by Advertised Tender Enquiry.

Where disposal is by public auction, publicity is given as indicated in (b) below so as to enable all who intend to participate in the auction to do so.

The Auctioneers are appointed by the Government for the purpose of conducting the auctions. The highest bid is accepted and the bidders are required to deposit 25% of the accepted bid at the fall of the hammer. Balance payment including sales tax is required to be paid by the bidders within 6 days. After full payments have been made a delivery order called Sales Release Order (SRO) is issued to the purchaser for removal of stores within 18 days from the date of payment.

Advertised tenders are issued through DAVP indicating the time and date of opening of tenders. Purchasers are required to fulfil the conditions of the tender enquiry which is priced at Rs. 25/- per set. In this case also the highest offer complying with the conditions of the Tender Enquiry is accepted. The purchasers are required to give 10% Earnest Money/ Security Deposit of the tendered value subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,00,000/-. As soon as a tender is accepted a sale letter is issued to the successful tenderer who has to pay the entire sale value and sales tax within 12 working days from the date of issue of sale letter. On receipt of full payment SRO is issued to the purchasers for removal of stores within the time limit specified in the SRO.

(b) Yes, Sir, Publicity is given through local/National dailies and also through hand bills and catalogues by the auctioneers atleast 10 days before the date fixed for the auction.

(c) Vehicles which DGS&D accepts for disposal include Motorcycles, Jeep, Jonga and Truck. The total auctions held and the number of vehicles disposed of during the last 3 years and in the current financial year is given below :

Year	No. of auctions held	No. of vehicles disposed of
1982-83	927	9,231
1983-84	990	12,765
1984-85	1,044	11,685
1985-86	107	3,726
(upto July, '85)		

These figures of vehicles disposed of do not include vehicles disposed of from civil stockholders. The number of civil vehicles disposed of would be less than 5% of vehicles belonging to Defence.

[Translation]

Compaign for investments in free trade zones by non-resident Indians

3689. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the commencement of India Fair in France and USA a compaign was launched or is proposed to be launched to attract non-resident Indians to invest their capital in free-trade zone and in cent percent exporting units in India;

(b) if so, the full details of the compaign and the estimated expenditure involved in it; and

(c) the names of the countries where this compaign has been launched and/or is proposed to be launched ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) With the objective of promoting India's exports and increased investments in India, it has been decided to draw up an intensive programme of commercial publicity to broadly coincide with the Festivals of India being held in France and U.S.A. The details of the programme are being worked out.

[English]

Transport contractors carrying coal and sand to B.C.C.L. and E.C.L. mines in Dhanbad, Orissa

3690. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of transport contractors carrying coal and sand to the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. mines in Dhanbad and amount paid to them in the last three years with year-wise break-up;

(b) whether in Orissa Coal Mines under Eastern Coalfields Ltd. even Coal raising is done by the contractors, and

machines and men are hired from contractors;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these transport contractors constitute mostly Mafia group in Dhanbad having monopoly on the business and if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES, AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

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

Unauthorised shipment of goods by garment exporters

3691. **SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :** Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the authorities have started sending lists of garment exporters to custom officer to prevent unauthorised shipment of goods to other countries;

(b) if so, the result achieved so far with the said measure;

(c) whether some such exporters have been identified;

(d) if so, action initiated against them and the details thereof; and

(e) if no action has been initiated, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The Apparel Export Promotion Council has started sending on a daily basis a list of certifications given by them for exports of readymade garments to USA, to the Custom official at Regional Centres where such certification is given by the Council for cross reference by the Customs while clearing shipments.

(b) and (c) So far no unauthorised shipments have been identified after the Council has started sending the list,

(d) and (e) Do not arise,

News item captioned "CCI officials made false insurance claims"

3692. **SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news-items captioned "CCI Officials made false insurance claims" appearing in the Times of India of the 4th May, 1985;

(b) the extent to which the said report is correct;

(c) the amount of such false insurance claims;

(d) the particulars of the officials of the insurance company and the Cotton Corporation of India said to be involved in the matter;

(e) whether any action has been taken against them; and

(f) the precautionary measures taken for the future ?

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

(b) to (f) Cotton Corporation of India took out in 1983 marine insurance covers from United India Insurance Company Limited for transit of 1284 bales of cotton from Guntur to Cochin by rail. At destination, CCI reported damage of 87 bales valued at Rs. 2,39,628/-

As per standing arrangement which 'United India' has with the CCI, whenever cotton meant for export is damaged fully or partially, insurance company takes over the salvage and settles the claim on total loss basis. Accordingly, the claim was settled for Rs. 1,74,628.08 after adjustment of the salvage amount of Rs. 65,000/.

The allegations made in the news-item have not been substantiated on enquiry. No irregularity or malafide on the part

of the officers of the 'United India' has been proved. Accordingly, the question of taking any action against any official of the 'United India' does not arise.

Meeting of 'Group of 77'

3693. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of "Group of 77" Ministers was held in Delhi during the last month to review the progress of the Global Scheme of Trade Preferences (GSTP) among developing countries and to take fresh decisions in this regard;

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

(c) the decisions taken at this meeting to enlarge the volume of trade among these developing countries through lowering tariffs and removing non-tariffs barriers; and

(d) the final shape given to the GSTP Scheme at this meeting ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A list of countries which participated in the Ministerial Meeting is given in the Statement below :

(c) and (d) The Ministerial Meeting adopted, inter-alia, a declaration on Global System of Trade Preferences (GSTP). In this declaration, the Ministers agreed that the Negotiating Committee on GSTP should consider in addition to the traditional product by product approach, certain complementary elements for the elaboration of techniques and modalities for the first round of GSTP negotiations. These complementary elements are :

(i) across the board tariff reduction through a preference margin up to 10%;

(ii) removal of reduction of non-tariff and para-tariff measures including

an undertaking by participating countries not to raise new non-tariff barriers or intensify the existing ones, in respect of products on which tariff concessions have been negotiated.

(iii) special attention to sectors of significant socio-economic importance to the participating countries such as non textile handicrafts, processed tropical products, textile and agricultural products; and

(iv) organisation of product consultations to promote trade and development through a greater degree of processing distribution and marketing among developing countries. The Ministers recognised the urgent need for the establishment of an overall legal framework within which the ground rules for the negotiations would be incorporated. The Ministers also agree on a timetable for the negotiations which, inter-alia, envisages that the first round of negotiations should commence not later than 1 May, 1986.

Statement

List of countries which participated in the ministerial meeting on Global System of Trade Preferences held in New Delhi

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Argentina
4. Bahrain
5. Bangladesh
6. Benin
7. Bhutan
8. Brazil
9. Chile
10. Colombia
11. Congo
12. Cuba
13. Cyprus
14. DPR Korea

15. Egypt
16. Equador
17. Ethiopia
18. Ghana
19. Guyana
20. India
21. Indonesia
22. Iran
23. Iraq
24. Ivory Coast
25. Jamaica
26. Jordan
27. Kenya
28. Kuwait
29. Lebanon
30. Libya
31. Lao
32. Madagascar
33. Malawi
34. Malaysia
35. Mauritius
36. Mexico
37. Morocco
38. Mozambique
39. Nepal
40. Nicargua
41. Niger
42. Nigeria
43. Oman
44. Pakistan
45. Panama
46. Peru
47. Philippines
48. P.L.O.
49. Qatar
50. Republic of Korea
51. Romania
52. Saudia Arabia
53. Singapore
54. Somalia
55. Shri Lanka
56. Sudan
57. Syria

58. Tanzania
59. Thailand
60. Trinidad & Tobago
61. Tunisia
62. Uganda
63. United Arab Emirates
64. Uruguay
65. Venezuela
66. Vietnam
67. Yemen PDR
68. Yemen Arab Republic
69. Yugoslavia
70. Zaire
71. Zambia
72. Zimbabwe.

In addition to the above countries, Caribbean Community was also represented at the meeting.

Condition, regulations and service rules of employees of export promotion councils

3694. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Export Promotion Councils are registered bodies under the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, what are the recruitment rules, service rules, pay scale and the like of the employees, in details;

(c) whether standing orders for the EPC have been framed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the standing orders will be framed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Export Promotion Councils are registered under the Companies Act, 1956 Societies Registration Act, 1860

(b) to (d) They have separate recruitment rules/service rules in the matter of pay and allowances etc. They are required to follow Government rules. Most

of the Export Promotion Councils are generally following Government rules. There are, however, certain departures from these rules in a few cases. Government is taking suitable steps to ensure that all Export Promotion Councils follow Government Rules in the matter of Pay & Allowances etc. No standing orders for the E.P.Cs have been framed nor is any such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Constitution of Pepper Board

3695. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Pepper Board for increasing the production of black pepper, an important exportable commodity ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been decided to set up a Spices Board for the overall development of export of spices including pepper. The existing cardamom Board and Spices Export Promotion Council will get merged in the proposed Board.

[Translation]

Tax evasion worth crores of Rupees by changing brand name and prices of Cigarettes

3696. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in 'Navbharat Times' of 9th July, 1985 captioned, "Cigarette Ka Nam Va Mulya Badal Karoron Rupaye Ki Kar Chori" (Tax evasion worth crores of rupees by changing brand name and prices of cigarettes) ;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any concrete action against the owners of firms mentioned therein and other cigarette companies for tax bungling in various ways and for selling cigarettes at higher prices ;

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

(d) if not, whether any effective steps are proposed to be taken in the near future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Some complaints regarding evasion of tax by cigarettes companies including the news item referred to in part (a) of the Question have come to the notice of the Government. The rates of excise duty on cigarettes are specific. The slabs of specific duty have been fixed with reference to the adjusted sale price of cigarettes. There are some reports of sales of cigarettes in retail, at prices higher than those printed in violation of the provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. The enforcing agencies for these rules are the State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations. Instructions have been issued to the Central Excise field formations not to approve the brands of cigarettes which are hardly distinguishable from one another.

Transactions being done through benami firms and benami accounts particularly those at Kanpur mentioned in the news item have been referred to the concerned Commissioner of Income-tax for appropriate action under the law.

[English]

Appointment of Non-professional as Head of Rubber Board

3697. DR. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to put a non-professional member of I.A.S. in service as head of the Rubber Board ; and

(b) how does it conform with the declared policy of Government to encourage professionals to head such bodies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) An officer has been appointed as Chairman, Rubber Board, by the Central Government in accordance with the provisions of the Rubber Act and the Rules made thereunder governing this appointment.

License for Setting up Spinning Mills in Maharashtra.

3698. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether from 1st November, 1985, as per Government notification it was not necessary for the spinning mills to obtain license for their setting up and under this provision many spinning mills were set up in Maharashtra ;

(b) whether by a notification issued by the Union Government on 31st August 1984, it was made necessary that such spinning mills should have license for this setting up ;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra have urged the Union Government to issue licences which were set up between 1975 and August, 1984 when license was necessary ; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (d) Setting up of spinning mills, for the manufacture of cotton yarn upto a capacity of 50,000 spindles was delicensed on 1.11.1975. Consequently an undertaking which did not require imported raw material or capital goods or involve foreign collaboration and did not attract the provisions of MRTP/FERA Act, could be registered with the Textile Commissioner, provided the location of the unit was in an area other than in a town with a population of more than 10 lakhs. A number of

spinning mill projects in Maharashtra were also registered under the delicensing scheme.

The Delicensing Scheme was withdrawn on 31st August, 1984. Following this the industrial undertaking which have been set up under the delicensing scheme and had either gone into production or had taken 'effective steps' prior to 31-8-1984 are required to obtain carry on Business Licences. Applications for C.O.B. licenses have been received from more than 600 units in the country. While a decision has been taken in a large number of cases the reminder are under different stages of processing.

Permission to Public Sector Undertakings to broaden their capital base.

3699. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has drawn to the suggestion made by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry (AIEI), the representative body of the industry both in public and private sectors, that the public sector undertakings should be permitted to broaden their capital base by raising equity funds from the public as well ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal with the Government at present for permitting the public sector undertakings to broaden their capital base by raising equity funds from the public.

Offer of joint ventures in telecommunication electronics and power industry by Danish Government.

3700. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Danish Government has offered assistance for joint-ventures in the field of telecommunications, electronics and power industry ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There has been no specific offer of assistance by the Danish Government for joint ventures in the field of telecommunications, electronics and power industry.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade Agreement with France :

3701. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that India has decided to step up bilateral trade with France ;

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

(c) whether any agreement with France has been signed ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) It is the endeavour of Government to set up bilateral trade with all friendly countries including France. No specific trade agreement has been signed with France.

Report of Arjun Sen Gupta Committee on Public Sector Enterprises

3702. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received the report of the Arjun Sen Gupta Committee set up to review in depth the working of public sector enterprises in the

context of the country's economic structure and overall planning ;

(b) if so, the critical problems and constraints in the operation of public sector enterprises identified by the Committee ;

(c) the performance evaluation criteria suggested by the Committee ; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The Government have received the report of the Arjun Sengupta Committee. It is not in the public interest to divulge the details of the report or the action proposed to be taken thereon at this stage.

Modification in continuing ban on new services in class III & IV.

3703. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the continuing ban on new recruitment to Central Government services in Class III and Class IV is likely to be modified at an early date ; and

(b) whether the staff side in the JCM has pressed for lifting of the ban in view of creation of new assets ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) & (b) The anti-inflationary measures taken in January 1984 interalia included advising Ministries/Departments not to fill up existing vacancies except where recruitment action had been taken. In that context, no category of posts could be specifically exempted from the ban orders. Exemptions have, however, been allowed in a few selective cases like appointment of dependants of deceased employees on compassionate grounds and handicapped persons, redeployment of personnel surplus to one organisation in another, regularisation of casual labourers against Group 'D' vacancies, filling up of vacancies purely

by promotion etc. Proposal for filling up of other types of vacancies are, however, considered on the merits of each case, taking into account the operational necessity. The circumstances in which these instructions were issued have not changed since then to warrant any relaxation thereof. This position has also been explained by the Official Side in the meeting of National Council of J.C.M.

[*Translation*]

Smuggling of Goods on Rajasthan Border

3704. PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :—

(a) whether Pak nationals have been apprehended several times while smuggling goods on Rajasthan border with Pakistan ;

(b) if so, the total number of the persons arrested during the past two years ; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in near future to check smuggling activities ?

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

[*English*]

Embargo on new Appointments in Central Government Offices.

3705. DR. SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the embargo on new appointments in the Central Government Offices still continues ;

(b) if so, whether it will not worsen the employment situation in the country ;

(c) whether it will not affect a large number of educated youngmen who are still unemployed in this international year of the youth ; and

(d) whether Government are considering in terms of lifting this embargo ?

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

(b) and (c) Instructions issued in January 1984 advising Ministries/Departments of the Govt. of India not to fill up existing vacancies except where recruitment action had been taken, were part of a package of anti-inflationary measures. Apart from exemptions having been allowed in a few selective cases like appointment of dependants of deceased employees on compassionate grounds and handicapped persons, redeployment of personnel surplus to one organisation in another, regularisation of casual labourers against Group 'D' vacancies, filling up of vacancies purely by promotion etc., proposals for filling up of other types of vacancies are considered on individual merits, having regard to the operational necessity. It is, however, expected that with the overall expansion and growth in economy, employment opportunities should increase in the non-Government sector also.

(d) The circumstances in which these economy instructions were issued have not changed since then to necessitate any relaxation thereof.

Sale of Court fee stamps, judicial and non-judicial stamp papers.

3706. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public is being inconvenienced in the matter of availability of court fee stamps, judicial and non-judicial stamp papers etc. from the stamp vendors ;

(b) whether some of the stamp vendors like the one in Parliament Street, old courts, New Delhi sell ten paise paper at premium and there is no system followed by them for sale of court fee tickets and stamp papers ; and

(c) if so, is there any proposal to sell these tickets and papers also through the Post Offices and if not, how Government ensure their easy availability and on their face value ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Except for 3 States, the State Governments have not reported any difficulty in availability of court fee stamps, judicial and non-judicial stamp papers, etc. from the stamp vendors.

(b) According to a report received from the Delhi Administration, no specific case of over-charging for the sale of those papers at premium has come to their notice. Ten paise paper is now priced at fifteen paise. This is a plain paper and under rule 7 of the Indian Stamp Rules, 1925, the plain paper can be sub-joined with the embossed stamp paper as a continuation sheet. The public can purchase the plain paper from the open market.

(c) There is no proposal at present to sell these papers through the Post Offices. The responsibility for ensuring the availability of the court fee stamps, judicial and non-judicial stamp papers etc. is of the State Governments.

Interest on funds for procurement operation of Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation

3707. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a request from the Chief Minister of Karnataka for advising Reserve Bank of India to charge concessional rates of interest on the amounts utilised for procurement operation of Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation ;

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

(c) the concessional rate of interest ?

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

(b) Credit at a concessional rate of interest is provided to State Governments only if procurement of foodgrains is undertaken at support prices fixed by the Govt. of India. If foodgrains are procured at higher prices, banks are permitted to change commercial rate of interest. During the 1981-82 Kharif Season the Govt. of Karnataka undertook purchases of foodgrains at prices above the support prices fixed by the Govt. of India and hence the Reserve Bank authorised a separate credit limit for this purpose, designated as account No. II, at the then maximum lending rate of 19.5 per cent after segregating the earlier outstandings, as on December 11, 1981, in a separate account (designated as account No. 1) at the then concessional rate of interest of 12.5 per cent and set the account No. 1 for adjustment by March 31, 1982. Subsequently, at the request of the State Govt. the time frame for adjustment of the outstandings under account No. 1 set for adjustment was extended up to the end of September 1982 and only from October 1, 1982 the out-standing under both the accounts were merged and charged interest at the higher rate of 19.5 per cent. As the Government of Karnataka was given adequate time for adjusting the earlier outstandings, on the principle of 'first in first out', the stocks of foodgrains held up by the State Govt. from October 1982 onwards were deemed to relate to stocks purchased at higher prices. As such, the Govt. of Karnataka's request for continuing facility of concessional credit was not acceded to.

(c) Credit authorised to State Govts. for procurement of foodgrains at the prices fixed by Govt. of India is provided at a concessional rate of interest of 14 per cent effective from October 1, 1984 (the rate prior to this was 12.5 per cent). Credit authorised to State Governments for purchases of foodgrains at prices higher than the support prices is provided at the maximum lending rate of 17.5 per cent, effective from April 1, 1985.

New textile policy

3708. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new textile policy will adversely affect the employment condition of weavers ;

(b) if so, the number of weavers who will be thrown out of jobs in India and in Karnataka ;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that cotton prices have drastically come down due to new policy ; and

(d) whether Government have received proposals for revising the said policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Some suggestions of a general nature have been received.

Expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant

3709 SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bhilai Steel Plant produced its first metal barely within three years of its launching in 1956;

(b) whether it is running in losses;

(c) whether further expansion in the plant is being done to increase its capacity from 2.5 to 4 million tonnes of steel a year;

(d) whether the expansion has been completed within the scheduled time and production has started;

(e) the reasons for the above expansion when Steel Authority of India Limited had to cut down production as the production was huge and the demand had come down as the price of steel had been increased by 50 per cent within a year; and

(f) whether we import certain kind of steel and if so, the action taken to produce that type of steel indigenously and with what success ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Civil works for the 1 million tonne stage of Bhilai Steel Plant were started in early 1957. With the commissioning of the first blast furnace on 4th February, 1959, the Bhilai Steel Plant produced 37,000 tonnes of hot metal during the year 1958-59.

(b) The Bhilai Steel Plant has been earning profits since 1972-73 except in 1983-84 when it incurred a small loss of Rs. 2.83 crores. As on 31st March, 1985, it has an accumulated profit of about Rs. 400 crores (provisional).

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The expansion of the Bhilai Steel Plant is to be completed in two phases. The approved commissioning schedule for Phase-I was December, 1981 and for Phase-II it was June, 1983. A number of facilities of Phase-I have been completed, the full facilities of this Phase are likely to be completed by June, 1986. Production of plates started in March, 1983 on commissioning of the Heavy Plate Section of the Plate Mill Complex under Phase I. Phase-II is likely to be completed by January, 1988.

(e) The capacities of steel plants are expanded in order to meet the projected gap between the assessed demand and estimated indigenous availability. The expansion of Bhilai Steel Plant from 2.5 million tonnes to 4 million tonnes of ingot steel largely envisages increasing production of plates. The demand for plates has not come down as is evident from the following :

	(lakh tonnes)
Total domestic supplies during 1983-84 (Domestic sales + Sales of canalised imports)	7.99
Total domestic supplies during 1984-85 (Domestic sales + Sales of canalised imports)	8.97
Demand estimated for 1984-85.	10.40

(f) Steel is imported to meet the gap between demand and domestic availability. SAIL has been increasing production of those categories of steel for which there is demand or which are imported. The enclosed Statement indicates production of such special/critical items in the last 4 years.

Statement

Production of special/critical items from SAIL plants

(Unit : Tonnes)

Items	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86 (Plan)
Boiler Quality Plates	6860	6612	14867	11661	61000
Ship-building Quality Plates	26878	22400	24457	18355	42000
IS : 2062 Plates	67805	45963	57351	74311	181000
HR Coils for sale (2.55 mm and below)	140406	152701	192191	272897	245000
0.63 mm and below CR Products	78177	76520	84441	91149	107000
0.4/0.5 mm GP/GC Sheets and Rougal-form	7359	15223	27538	35408	37000
Electrical Steel Sheets	20971	12073	17241	26576	50000
Electrolytic Tin Plates	41531	29685	48076	72781	70000
LPG Sheets	21803	18314	62388	63007	72000
D/DD/EDD Killed CR Products	11827	8788	20288	25303	35000
Rails (Tested)	211000	255000	272000	294100	370000
Electrode Quality Wire Rods	8500	10900	21500	19481	36000
Fish Plates	2541	2607	3100	2950	5000
Tor-Steel	150039	164231	144002	136291	165000
Total :	795697	821017	989440	1144270	1476000

[Translation]

Civil cases pending against Ministry of Supply

3710. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:
Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number and names of civil cases and awards pending against the Department of Supply indicating the amount involved in each case and dates of their pendency;

(b) the value of decrees of awards given (date-wise) against the Department of Supply during the last three years and the amount the Department had to pay in each case and each year; and

(c) the amount the Department had to incur during the last three years year-wise on litigation, fees, etc. and by way of other expenses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Leasing out of properties/buildings of LIC

3711. SHRI SRIHARI RAO :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of properties/buildings of Life Insurance Corporation leased out in various cities especially Delhi, Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Punjab;

(b) whether it is a fact that LIC is losing heavily on the properties leased out;

(c) if so the details of properties which are a source of loss; and

(d) the action proposed by Government to recover the dues from the defaulting parties.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Life

Insurance Corporation is owning a large number of properties/buildings at different centres and some of these premises are leased out to outsiders. In Bombay alone there are 2063 tenants in LIC buildings. There are 1294 tenants at other centres—Calcutta, Delhi, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad etc and in Punjab.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. However rents are low in some of the buildings which are old whereas the maintenance costs have gone up.

(d) In cases of arrears and default in payment of lease rent, action is taken to initiate legal proceedings for eviction/recovery of arrears of lease rent.

Aluminium project of Ratnagiri

3712. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI :
Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the expenditure so far incurred by the Union Government on aluminium project of Ratnagiri;

(b) the total amount of expenditure so far incurred by Government of Maharashtra on that project;

(c) the agency appointed by the Union Government to undertake that project; and

(d) the present stage of that project ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Rs. 194.91 lakhs (provisional) upto 31st March, 1985.

(b) Expenditure, if any, incurred by Maharashtra Government is not known to the Government of India.

(c) Bharat Aluminium Company Limited, a Government of India undertaking.

(d) Presently, an appraisal of the bauxite reserves in the Kolhapur area, based on the assessment report recently submitted by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited has been taken up by the

Government in order to take a final view about the feasibility of putting up an economic size integrated alumina/aluminium plant.

Ship-breaking centres

3713. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of ship-breaking centres working in the country at present;

(b) the State-wise break-up of these centres; and

(c) the particulars of centres working in Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The following table will indicate the position :

	State	Site	No. of Units
1.	Gujarat	Alang	46
			14
		Sachana	11
2.	Maharashtra	Bombay	28 plots
		Agardanda	4
3.	Karnataka	Tadri	1
			1
		Mangalore	1
		Malpe	3
		Karwar	2
		1	
4.	Kerala	Beypore	1
		Azhical	1
		Cochin	1
5.	Tamil Nadu	Tuticorin	1
		Valinokkam	1
6.	Andhra Pradesh	Vizag	2
7.	West Bengal	Calcutta	2 (Berths)

			121 (91+30)

Depots of Coffee Board in Bangalore city

3714. SHRI V.S. KRISHANA IYER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of retail sales depots of Coffee Board in Bangalore city;

(b) whether these are earnings profit or running in loss; and

(c) whether all the areas of Bangalore city are covered by retail sales depots ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) There are five sales

depots of the Coffee Board in Bangalore city.

(b) India Coffee Depots were started for promotion of coffee and not as commercial ventures. However, excess of receipts over expenditure in 1984-85 were of the order of Rs. 11,59,835 for coffee Depots in Bangalore.

(c) No, Sir. It is not possible to cover all the areas of Bangalore city because only a maximum quantity of 10% of the coffee, sold in the internal market, is released through such depots in different parts of the country at a fixed price so as to act a trend setter of the price level of coffee sold in the open market.

Instructions issued by R.B.I. to provide loans to weaker sections

3715. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India have issued instructions to the nationalised banks to provide loans under different schemes and programmes of Rural development and economically weaker sections;

(b) if so, the guidelines and instructions thereof;

(c) whether these instructions have reached the different branches where these are to be implemented; and

(d) if so, the progress made by the branches after these instruction were issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) RBI have issued instructions from time to time to nationalised banks for providing credit support to various programmes of rural development and also to weaker sections. These guidelines mainly relate to application forms, loan procedure, margin money, security norms and rate of interest. The instructions also emphasised that

advances to weaker sections should reach a level of 10% of net bank credit by end of March 85.

(c) and (d) The RBI has circulated these instructions to all banks and advised them to supply copies to all their branches for compliance. The banks have confirmed to the RBI that these instructions have been sent to their branch offices.

The main programme aimed at rural people living below the poverty line is IRDP and the progress in its implementation during the Sixth Plan is set out below :

IRDP implementation during the Sixth Plan

1980-85 (Sixth Plan period)

1. No. of beneficiaries (Target)	15 million
2. No. of beneficiaries actually covered	16.42 million
3. Term credit disbursed (Rs. in crores)	Rs. 3080.41

Apart from this, the progress in lending to weaker sections has been as follows :

	Balance outstanding (Rs. crores)
	(as on 31st March, 85)
(i) Total Priority sector advances	17971.14
(ii) Advances to weaker sections in priority sector	4072.19
(iii) % of weaker sections to priority sector advances (Target 25%)	22.7
(iv) % of advances to weaker sections to total advances (Target 10%)	9.4

Decision to de-reserve mining areas for exploitation by private sector

3717. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to de reserve some mining areas for exploitation by the private Sector;

(b) if so, the details of the decision arrived at;

(c) the names of the private sector companies that will be permitted to exploit the mining areas;

(d) the location of the mining areas de-reserved, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the particulars of the mines proposed to be given to private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Pursuant to the recommendation of the Mineral Advisory Council a Committee has been constituted in Department of Mines to consider the question of de-reserving some mining areas for exploitation in private sector.

(b) to (e) The detailed information regarding the names of private companies permitted to exploit the mining areas, location of mining areas de-reserved and the particulars of mines proposed to be given to private sector will be available only after the Committee submits its report.

[Translation]

Proposal to set up industrial units in public sector for development of re-rolling industry

3718. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether rerolling industry is the main source of supply of iron rods and rolled rods;

(b) if so, the percentage of production of rods and rolled rods made by this industry;

(c) whether Government propose to set up industrial units in public sector for further development of rerolling industry;

(d) if so, the names of the places where these units are proposed to be set up;

(e) whether Government are considering a proposal to set up an industrial unit of rerolling in Barabanki district of Uttar Pradesh;

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The steel rerolling industry meets about 75% of the requirements of bars and rods in the country.

(c) to (g) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Changes in guidelines for distribution of pig iron

3719. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to ensure proper distribution of available quantity of pig-iron and to meet domestic requirement of iron, some changes have been made in the guidelines laid down for its distribution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether poor people are being benefited by these changes;

(d) if so, the benefits being received by them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Pig-Iron

produced by integrated steel plants is distributed in terms of the Joint Plant Committee distribution guidelines. These guidelines were last issued in 1980 and are under review.

(c) to (e) Pig-Iron is being supplied to foundries and other industrial consumers like sleepers manufacturers. It is an industrial item of use and there is no direct consumer application as far as poor people are concerned

[English]

Demand for coal

3720. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group on energy policy in 1979 had projected the demand for coal in India by the year 2000 to rise to 427 million tonnes on a conservative scale;

(b) if so, whether the latest exercise done by Coal India Limited drastically prunes the estimates;

(c) if so, whether it puts upper limit for that year at 380 million tonnes and the lower at 340 million tonnes;

(d) if so, the main factors listed in regard to drastic cut, and

(e) the efforts being made to see that the policy in 1979 continues ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Working Group on Energy Policy had, in 1979, assessed that at the optimal level forecast, the coal requirement in 2000 AD would be 427 million tonnes. CIL in its latest assessment has estimated the requirement at the optimal level forecast as 380 MT. of the total 380 MT, the demand on CIL has been estimated at 340 MT. The principle reason for the downward revision of coal demand is the non-attainment of expected coal consumption levels by different sectors of the economy during the intervening period of five years after the report of

Working Group on Energy Policy was published in 1979 and growth in the share of the service sector in the GNP. The latest assessment made by CIL is based on the facts now available. It is subject to further revision in case the factors influencing the coal consumption change in future.

Indian engineering exporters pushed out of african market

3721. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian engineering exporters have been pushed out of the African market by countries like China, South Korea and Taiwan;

(b) if so, whether the main reasons for this is because these countries are offering goods cheaper by 5 to 15 per cent;

(c) whether in 1983-84 India's engineering exports to Africa amounted to Rs. 205 crores out of the country's total engineering exports to about Rs. 1,170 crores and in 1984-85 is estimated at Rs. 200 crores of the total estimated figure of Rs. 1,300 crores;

(d) if so, the main reasons for the same; and

(e) the efforts being made by Government to that Indian engineering exports are not further pushed out from the African market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Many Indian engineering goods are facing competition in African countries from a number of countries including China, South Korea and Taiwan.

(d) Apart from competition from other countries, the main reason for decline in exports of engineering goods to African countries is the payment difficulties faced by certain East and West African countries.

(e) The Government have taken a series of measures for boosting the export of engineering goods. These include, inter-alia, continuation and strengthening of International Price Reimbursement Scheme, liberalisation of imports for export production, link deals for exports and lines of credits to some countries.

Seizure of Heroin in Rajasthan

3722. SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI VIRDI CHANDER JAIN :
SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :
SHRI MANIK REDDY :
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOJ ALI KHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' on 20th July, 1985 wherein it has been stated that heroin worth Rs. 16 crores had been seized in Rajasthan which is the biggest narcotic catch in the country's history;

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

(c) whether any action has been taken in regard thereto ?

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

(b) During an encounter on 17th July, 1985, between an armed gang of smugglers and BSF patrol party ex-BOP Panchala of Barmer Sector, the BSF seized 325.740 Kgs. of substance said to be heroin, the value of which according to BSF is Rs. 16.29 crores. No arrest was made. Six camels used by smugglers were killed, one injured and another captured alive.

(c) As the smugglers made good their escape no arrest was made. The contraband was handed over to the Customs authorities and the arms and ammunition to the local police by the BSF, for appropriate action.

Measures to Boost Export of Diamonds :

3723. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether export of diamonds which is Indian's premier export trade is declining rapidly ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to take some measures to boost the export of diamonds ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) Diamond exports from India last year did not register the type of increases they had done in the preceding year. Exports during 1984-85 remained almost at the same level as in 1983-84. Facility to import essential equipment and tools under OGL, reduction in import duty on a number of essential equipment and tools and sponsoring of delegations to overseas markets are some of the measures taken to boost the export of diamonds.

Shifting of Regional Centre for Technology from Bangalore :

3724. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Regional Centre for Technology has been shifted from Bangalore ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka have requested the Union-Government not to shift this Centre ; and

(d) the site where this Centre has been shifted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Imported Dry Fruits Lying Undelivered at Bombay Port

3725. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether large quantities of dry fruits worth lakhs of rupees imported by certain cooperative agencies are lying at Bombay Port undelivered due to the cancellation of import licences of the agencies between the time of the import order and the time of arrival of the goods ;

(b) if so, whether Government have received representations in this regard ; and

(c) whether Government propose to find out ways and means for delivery of the goods for consumption in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Introduction of Powerloom in Manipur Valley.

3726. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Manipur have approached the Union Government to extend help for the introduction of powerloom in the Manipur valley ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the matter at the next meeting of the Powerloom Board recently

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Although no such request appears to have been received there is now no restriction on setting up of powerlooms with proper registration.

(c) The Board may consider and advises the Government on matters concerning the healthy development of powerlooms in all parts of the country.

Sale of C.I. Sheets in Black Market.

3727. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the quotas of C.I. sheets for some of the States and Union Territories in the North East are sold by the agencies in-charge of lifting the goods outside the States concerned in black market ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to stop this practice ; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to look into the matter involving the said States and Union Territories ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Department of Steel in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) If specific complaints are brought to Government's notice, necessary action will be taken.

Import of dry fish from Bangladesh

3728. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import of dry fish from Bangladesh by India has been stopped ;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons

(c) if not, the volume of trade involved and whether Government propose to raise indigenous production to stop the import ; and

(e) whether Government have taken any step in this direction.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) There has been negligible import of dry fish from Bangladesh to India during the last five years. Dry fish for a value of only a few thousand rupees had been imported during 1981-82 and 1983-84.

Bangladesh is not in a position to supply fish to India on account of their own internal consumption needs.

The Government has taken steps to increase the production of fish in the country through several schemes and programmes being implemented both under States and Central sectors.

[*Translation*]

Loans Advanced by S.B.I., Khalilabad to Persons of Basti, U.P.

3729. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons advanced loans in Basti, Uttar Pradesh for setting up industries so far by the State Bank of India, Khalilabad indicating the amount of loans ;

(b) whether the amount of loan advanced have been fully utilised ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the action being taken by Government in this regard :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have advised that the branch-wise data is not

maintained by them. However, the number of accounts and amount outstanding as on the quarter ended June, 1981 (the latest available) relating to the borrowers under industry and small scale industry sector in the district of Basti (UP) are as under :

	Industry	Small Scale Industries
No. of accounts	2896	2844
Amount outstanding (Rs. in lakhs)	813.35	131.71

Since the working capital facility availed of by the borrowers is generally in the nature of cash credit, it is upto the borrower concerned to utilise the facility. Term-loan assistance which is linked to acquisition of equipment/machinery is, however, disbursed in full on purchase of such equipment/machinery.

Pending Income-Tax Cases in Basti and Gorakhpur District.

3730. DR. CHANDRA 'SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending with Income-tax officers in Basti and Gorakhpur districts of Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) whether Government are going to take any steps for their disposal ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House soon after its receipt.

[*English*]

Interim Relief to Central Government Employees

3731. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have sanctioned interim relief to Central Government Employees keeping in view the old principles and norms which were adopted while sanctioning the same on earlier occasion in 1983 ;

(b) whether Government are aware that employees in the pay range between Rs. 300-599 will be getting lesser amount than sanctioned to them in 1983 ;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof ; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating some steps for its rectification ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The instalment of Interim Relief sanctioned w.e.f. 1-6-1983 was decided after discussion in the Standing Committee of the National Council (JCM). The second instalment of Interim Relief sanctioned with effect from 1-3-1985 has been given on the basis of the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission. The terms of reference of the Commission were modified to enable them to consider giving relief of such interim nature.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Fixed amounts for pay slabs were given as Interim Relief w.e.f. 1-6-1983. Interim Relief given w.e.f. 1-3-1985 has been at the rate of 10% of the basic pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50/-p.m.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

[Translation]

Utilisation of slurry discharged from coal washeries

3732. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the way in which the slurry discharged from coal washeries of Coal India Ltd. is being used; and

(b) whether it is a fact that people are earning lakhs of rupees daily by selling slurry of Coal India Ltd. in private sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) Slurry discharged from the coal washeries of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. Central Coalfields Limited and Western Coalfields Limited is recovered from the ponds built up for the purpose and is being mixed with clean coal or middlings depending upon quality. A part of the slurry is also being disposed of by CCL by inviting tenders and the tenderers dispose them off by making soft coke.

Very fine slurry which is not deposited in the ponds, flows out. It is not possible to recover such slurry mechanically or manually due to the operation being commercially un-economic and technically difficult. Such slurry from BCCL's own lands and other lands has been leased out by the Government of Bihar to the private parties. The profit which is earned by such parties in the process is not known.

Amount spent on welfare schemes in C.I.L.

3733. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount sanctioned for the welfare schemes in the different associate companies of the Coal India Ltd. during 1984-85; and

(b) the details of the expenditure out of this amount on different projects/schemes separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Method for measuring/weighing coal produced in Collieries and Coal Projects of C.I.L.

3734. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the method adopted for measuring/ weighing the stock of coal produced in collieries and coal projects of Coal India Limited;

(b) whether any physical verification is done at the end of the year;

(c) if so, the difference found in the stock of coal mentioned in the stock books and the stocks obtained during the physical verification of 1984-85 colliery-wise and project-wise; and

(d) if the annual stock taking of coal has not been undertaken, when and how Government propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The measurement of coal stocks is done on volumetric basis and by applying appropriate density factor, tonnage is derived. Besides measurement done by the

Survey Teams of subsidiary companies on monthly, six-monthly and yearly basis, a Coal Inventory Team from Coal India Limited also measures the stocks in each colliery at the close of the financial year. The Members of the Team are drawn from the Regional Institutes of CEMPDIL and the subsidiaries of CIL. The teams constituted from the coalfield carry out measurements in other coalfields.

(b) Yes, Sir. Physical verification of stocks as on 1.4.1985 has already been carried out at all the collieries of Coal India Limited.

(c) Statement showing company-wise position of physical and book stocks as on 1.4.1985 is given below. The information regarding colliery-wise stock position is being obtained and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

CIL coal stock inventory teams for 1984-85

Company-wise overall position of stock shortages

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Company	Book Stock	Measured Stock	Shortage*	
			Abs.	%
1. E.C.L.	48.02	45.96	(—) 2.06	4.3
2. B.C.C.L.	44.48	43.91	(—) 0.57	1.3
3. C.C.L.	128.37	125.75	(—) 2.62	2.0
4. W.C.L.	66.60	66.12	(—) 0.48	0.7

* The figures represent the algebraic sum of the shortages of all the mines under the Company.

Production of Coking Coal

3735. SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the total quantity of coking coal produced in the month of April, May and June, 1985 vis-a-vis the coal produced in the

corresponding months in 1984 and how does it compare with the target fixed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : The coking coal production during April to June 1985-86 as compared to 1984-85 is given as under :—

(Figures in million tonnes)

Month	Target 1985-86	Coking Coal Production	
		1985-86	1984-85
April	2.61	2.27	2.62
May	2.63	2.35	2.53
June	2.57	2.26	2.31
Total	7.81	6.88	7.46

[English]

Funds to Andhra Pradesh under plan and non-plan programme

3736. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds released to Andhra Pradesh during the last three years under the Plan and non-plan programmes;

(b) how it compares with other States; and

(c) whether these funds were utilised for the purpose these were allocated and whether required returns were submitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) A statement is given below.

(c) Funds are released to States on the basis of anticipated statement of expenditure furnished by the States. The accounts are later settled on the basis of the audited figures of expenditure.

Statement

Statement showing funds released to States during the last three years (1982-85) under the Plan and Non-Plan programmes

(Rs. Crores)

States	1982—85	
	Plan	Non-Plan@
1	2	3
1. Andhra Pradesh	1168.24	144.99
2. Assam	1279.78	85.31
3. Bihar	1468.67	112.27
4. Gujarat	781.43	149.79
5. Haryana	327.11	58.62
6. Himachal Pradesh	428.57	18.57
7. Jammu & Kashmir	558.28	345.33
8. Karnataka	687.24	63.30
9. Kerala	549.21	130.89

1	2	3	4
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1310.23	158.38
11.	Maharashtra	1225.58	129.11
12.	Manipur	298.80*	
13.	Meghalaya	214.12	15.42
14.	Nagaland	252.30	16.26
15.	Orissa	834.26	377.32
16.	Punjab	789.36*	
17.	Rajasthan	925.30	100.15
18.	Sikkim	117.43	5.99
19.	Tamil Nadu	919.78	57.71
20.	Tripura	236.55	10.22
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2399.77	275.36
22.	West Bengal	1088.23	150.18

Includes non-plan releases also.

@Do not include statutory grants and small savings loans as these are not given for any specific programme as such.

Public sector units in Maharashtra

3737. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Central public sector units in the country at present;

(b) number of such units located in Maharashtra;

(c) whether any proposal to set up some more such public units in Maharashtra is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposal, district-wise ?

(b) The operations of many of the Central Public Undertakings are spread over more than one State. However, there were 25 Public Enterprises located in Maharashtra with reference to the location of their registered offices.

(c) and (d) As the Seventh Plan is still under finalisation, no details in this regard are available.

[Translation]

Target set for advancing loans to priority sector under 20-Point Programme

3738. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target set for advancing loans to priority sector has been achieved and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) the reasons for which target set for advancing loans to small farmers and backward class under 20-Point Programme has not been achieved; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) As per the Public Enterprises Survey 1983-84 laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 15.3.1985, there were 210 Industrial and Commercial Undertakings of the Central Government operating as on 31.3.1984.

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the banks which are not functioning properly keeping in view the official policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The target for advancing at least 40% of total bank credit to priority sector by the end of March '85 has been achieved.

(b) and (c) The banks have been assigned separate sub-target for advancing loans to weaker sections which includes small farmers and the people belonging to SC/ST. The banks were asked to increase the share of weaker sections in total bank credit to 10% by the end of March '85. The advances given to weaker sections by public sector banks were 94% of their total advances as at the end of March, 85. The banks which could not attain the target of lending to weaker sections by March '85 have been asked to make up for the shortfall quickly.

[English]

Number of NTC shops in villages and rural district headquarters

3739. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the minimum and maximum price of a saree for women and dhoti for men in NTC shops;

(b) the number of NTC shops in India and the number of these located in villages or rural district headquarters;

(c) whether non-supply of materials compelled many units to make a poor turnover; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH):(a)

The price range of sarrees and dhoties in NTC shops, is as under:

	Minimum Price (Rs.)	Maximum Price (Rs.)
(i) Saree	13.05	215.50
(ii) Dhoti	10.40	140.00

The minimum prices are for controlled cloth saree or dhoti which carry a subsidy of Rs. 2.00 per metre.

(b) At present the total number of NTC shops in the country is 399. The number of shops in State Capitals/Union Territory Headquarters are 79 leaving a balance of 320 in the rest of the country.

(c) and (d) There is a system of replenishment of goods regularly. However, occasional disruptions of supply for short periods may occur due to production constraints e.g. disturbances of public order etc.

Import of cotton

3740. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that cotton imports are being resorted to without taking into account of local cotton stocks;

(b) if so, reasons thereof in view of tight foreign exchange situation; and

(c) whether Government are aware of the set back this will cause to growers and to future production as has happened in case of vegetable oils, milk product imports (gifts and commercial) and sugar etc. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) to (c) The Cotton situation is reviewed by Government from time to time and the decision regarding export and import of cotton is taken. According to the latest assessment made by the Cotton Advisory

Board, there is likely to be some shortage of short/medium staple cotton and surplus in long and extra-long staple cotton during cotton season. It has, therefore, been decided by Government to import one lakh bales of medium staple cotton and to export a quantity of 2.95 lakh bales of long and extra long staple cotton during current cotton season. Import of cotton will not affect the cotton growers and there will no adverse effect on future production of cotton.

Introduction of Consignment Tax Bills

3741. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHER-
JEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal of introducing Consignment Tax Bill is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) A con-

ference of Chief Ministers held on 28th May, 1984 recommended, by consensus different aspects of framing legislation for taxing inter-State consignments of goods consequent upon the Constitution (46th Amendment) Act, 1982. As some of the issues involved are required to be sorted out, it has not yet been possible to take any decision.

Earnings through indirect taxes

3742. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount Government have earned through indirect taxes during 1984-85, the head-wise details thereof; and

(b) the total amount Government have paid as subsidy during the year 1984-85 the head-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the details of indirect taxes and subsidies included in the Revised estimate 1984-85 of Central Government is given below.

Statement

Statement showing receipts from Indirect taxes and expenditure on payment of subsidies as per Revised Estimates 1984-85.

(Rs. in crores)

(a) Indirect taxes :

1. Customs	1700
2. Union Excise Duties	11168
3. State Excise	100
4. Sales Tax	280
5. Taxes on vehicles	12
6. Taxes on goods and passengers	23
7. Taxes and duties on electricity	2
8. Other indirect taxes and duties	40

Total—Indirect taxes

18725

(b) Subsidies :

1. Food subsidy	1100
2. Fertilizers subsidy	
— Indigenous fertilizer	1200
— Imported fertilizer	632
3. Export subsidy	499
4. Export subsidy on sugar	38
5. Subsidy on controlled cloth	53
6. Subsidy on imported cotton	18
7. Subsidy on imported fatty acids	41
8. Subsidy to new industrial units, etc. in selected backward areas	85
9. Subsidy to Railways	98
10. Subsidy to shipyards for construction of middle sized vessels	12
11. Interest subsidy to	
(i) National Textile Corporation	173
(ii) Steel Authority of India Ltd.	139
(iii) Coal India Ltd.	58
(iv) Fertilizer Corporation of India	46
(v) Garden Reach ship-builders and Engineers Ltd.	35
(vi) Khadi and Village Industries Commission	34
(vii) Shipping Development Fund Committee	28
(viii) Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd.	26
(ix) Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd.	11
(x) Burn Standard Co. Ltd.	11
12. Other subsidies	85
	<hr/>
Total Subsidies	4422*

*This excludes subsidies paid through State Governments,

Mechanisation of Banking Industry*[Translation]***3743. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision for the mechanisation of the banking industry in our country ;

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

(c) whether Government are aware that the mechanisation of the banking industry in our country will have an adverse effect on the unemployment situation ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India accepted the recommendations of the Committee on mechanisation in banking industry constituted by it in July, 1983 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rangarajan and thereafter advised all the banks, in consultation with Government of India, to implement the recommendations of the above Committee in a phased manner. Government considers introduction of computers and machines in banks necessary as it would enable banks to give better customer service, improve their house keeping and enable them to have a better management information system and thereby generally tone up efficiency in banks.

The Indian Banks' Association had already signed a settlement in September 1983 with the All India Bank Employees Association, National Confederation of Bank Employees and Indian National Bank Employees Congress, which inter-alia contains a provision for introduction of computers and machines in banks. The settlement stipulates that there shall be no retrenchment on introduction of machines and computers in banks.

Complaints Against Officers of LIC in Ajmer

3744. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received several complaints against many officers of Ajmer (Rajasthan) based loan and Mortgage Department of the Life Insurance Corporation for harassing their customers and for their being involved in the corrupt practices in cases of providing loans ;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government so far in this matter ; and

(b) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, one complaint against an officer of the Legal and Mortgage Department of Life Insurance Corporation of India at Ajmer about the latter's rude behaviour and involvement in party politics was received by the Government recently. There was no charge of corruption. The matter has been referred to the Life Insurance Corporation of India who are taking necessary action.

Realisation of additional revenue to make up estimated deficit in budget

3745. SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make up the estimated deficit in budget by realising 10 per cent additional revenue than the target fixed therefor ; and

(b) if so, whether there is desirable increase in the realisation of Central Revenues during the current financial year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Government is quite earnest in improving tax collection beyond the budget estimates

and thus covering the budget deficit atleast partially.

(b) The figures of collections of Central Revenues from April to July, 1985 and comparative figures for the same period in 1984 are given below :—

	Upto April- July, '85	Upto-April- July, '84
Central excise and Customs duties	Rs. 6699 crores	Rs. 5440 crores
Direct taxes	Rs. 775 crores (approx.)	Rs. 691 crores

The above figures show the desirable increase in the realisation of Central Revenues during the current financial year.

[English]

Reduction in the area under narcotic plantations

3746. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government intend to reduce the area under narcotic plants progressively in order to reduce the leakage of opium into the black market ;

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

(c) if not, the other steps being taken to ensure the reduction of opium output in the context of the widespread consumption of narcotic drugs especially by the young ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) India is the sole producer of licit opium for export purposes. Having regard to the large quantity of licit opium produced in the country annually and considering the quantum of internal seizures made, leakage from licit production is minimal. It is also significant to mention here that

the International Narcotics Control Board in its annual reports on the working of the International drug control system, has generally observed that the International control system as it relates to the licit movement of opium for medical and scientific purposes remains generally satisfactory and diversion from licit manufacture and trade are relatively minimal.

However, due to global over-supply of narcotic raw materials, Indian has been facing increasing competition from alternate raw materials. This has resulted in accumulation of large stocks in the Government factories. The Government, have therefore, been constrained to reduce the area under poppy cultivation in a phased manner during the last few years in the three opium poppy growing states.

Product Mix of Public Sector Steel Plants

3747. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he considers that the product mix of the public sector steel plants closely follows that the demand pattern for these products ;

(b) if so, the reasons for several items being surplus while there is scarcity for several other items ; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to change the product mix ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The production plants of the public sector integrated steel plants are drawn up to meet the market demand.

(b) and (c) At times certain items may become surplus in a particular area of the country due to fluctuations in the demand; there may be scarcity of certain items in other area due to lower production on account of certain constraints in production and also due to movement restrictions of the Railways. Depending upon the capabilities of the plants, the product-mix is monitored on a monthly basis to suit the market demands as far as possible.

Implementation of IRDP in West Bengal

3748. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the results of the sample studies made by Reserve Bank of India and/or NABARD on the implementation of Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) in West Bengal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : NABARD has conducted an evaluation study of implementation of IRDP which covered 15 States including West Bengal. In West Bengal the study covered the two districts of Howrah and Burdwan, 4 Blocks of Jagatballarpur, Amta, Memri and Raina and 58 sample beneficiaries. Out of 58 sample beneficiaries 45 were found to have crossed the poverty line. Average annual income of sample beneficiaries before participation in the programme was Rs. 1988 which rose to Rs. 3706 in the post development stage whereby the beneficiaries earned an incremental income of Rs. 1718.

The RBI's study also covered two blocks (Polba Dadpur and Balagarh) in Hooghly District of West Bengal from where few sample beneficiaries were selected. The study report of RBI indicates analysis for the whole sample covering many states. As per this study 51% of the sample beneficiaries registered an increase in their real income and 17% were able to cross the poverty line.

Custom duty structure on imported drug intermediates

3749. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the customs duty structure on imported drug intermediates is higher than the duty structure on imported drugs manufactured from the same intermediates;

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

(c) the policy of Government in this regard

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Drugs fall within Chapter 29 or 30 of the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and drug intermediates generally fall within Chapter 29 of the First Schedule. While the general statutory basic duty on items covered by these Chapters is 100%, drugs generally carry an effective basic duty of 60% advalorem, and drug intermediates, 70% advalorem. Auxiliary duty at the rate of 40% advalorem and additional (countervailing) duty equal to Central Excise duty are leviable in addition. However, duty on various specified drugs and drug intermediates has been reduced in consultation with the administrative Ministry concerned and notifications issued in this respect from time to time have been laid on the Table of the House with Explanatory Memoranda setting out the reasons for such exemption. It is not possible to give details of drug intermediates, where the duty is higher than the drugs, since their number is very large.

Each request for duty exemption on drug intermediates is examined on merits in consultation with the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, having regard to their alternative uses, indigenous availability, etc.

Realisation of excise duty from cigarette manufacturing companies

3750. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that excise duty realised from various cigarette manufacturing companies has of late been registering a downward trend ;

(b) if so, the details of excise duty realised from them during 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 year-wise and cigarette company-wise ;

(c) whether Government have analysed the causes of the downward trend ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government to plug this evasion of excise duty

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) it has been noticed that the realisation of excise duty from cigarettes has been satisfactory so far during the current financial year ;

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Seizure of Kashmir Carpets in Delhi by customs Authorities.

3751. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Customs authorities in Delhi have seized several consignments of Kashmir carpets for fresh inspection before permitting their shipment to destinations in other countries ;

(b) if so, the details of the said case ;

(c) the latest position in the said case ; and

(d) the details of the action taken, if any ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Though there was no formal seizure by customs, in view of information received regarding suspected misdeclaration of art silk carpets as woollen carpets, 142 bales of Kashmir Carpets were detained by the Delhi Customs for inspection. The consignments were allowed export on 29.7.85 after inspection by the office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Commerce, in the presence of Customs.

Income tax exemption to foreign chartered fishing vessels

3752. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign chartered fishing vessels operating in Indian waters have been granted complete income-tax exemption;

(b) if so, the computed tax loss on this account; and

(c) the reasons for not extending the same tax concessions to the Indian fishing industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Owner of a foreign fishing vessel deriving income from fishing operations in Exclusive Economic Zone of India is not liable to pay income tax in India. The Central Government extended the Income-tax Act to the Continental Shelf and the Exclusive Economic Zone of India only in respect of the following specified activities :-

(i) the prospecting for or extraction or production of mineral oils in the continental shelf of India or the exclusive economic zone of India;

(ii) the provision of any services or facilities or supply of any ship, aircraft, machinery or plant (whether by way of sale or hire) in connection with any activities referred to in clause (i);

(iii) the rendering of services as an employee of any person engaged in any of the activities referred to in clause (i) or clause (ii).

Fishing is not one of the activities specified in this behalf.

As the owners of foreign fishing vessels are non-resident, the income arising due to fishing operations in Indian waters is not subject to tax in India.

(b) In view of the answer to part (a), there can not be said to be any tax loss.

(c) The owners of Indian vessels are resident in India; they operate from India and the catch made by them is sold in India. Under the Income-tax Act, income derived by a resident, from whatever source, accruing or arising to him in India or anywhere outside India, is liable to tax in India.

The Indian companies are permitted to charter foreign fishing vessels to carry out fishing operations in Exclusive Economic Zone of India for export purposes and with a view to acquire the latest technology in the quickest possible time. Exempting Indian fishing vessels from the liability to income-tax may not help in transfer of deep-sea fishing technology from foreign parties to Indians.

Declaration of free trade zones at vizag

3753. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO :

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN :

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places which are declared as Free Trade Zones;

(b) whether it is a fact that existing Free Trade Zones cover the West Coast and also the Southern and Northern parts of East Coast while the important middle part of East coast is left out; and

(c) the decision taken in regard to set up Free Trade Zone at Vizag in Visakhapatnam as requested by Government of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Export Processing Zones have been set up at Kandla (Gujarat), Santacruz (Bombay), Cochin, Madras, Falta (West Bengal), and Nodia (U.P.)

(b) There are two multi-product export processing zones each on West Coast and East Coast. Establishment of additional zones has been restricted by constraint of resources.

(c) Performance and progress of the four new zones at Madras, Cochin Falta and Noida is presently being watched, before the establishment of any other new zones is considered.

Exploitation of mines

3754. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether while exploiting various mines of coal, gold or other metals, Government take into consideration the factor as to how long a particular mine can continue to be exploited;

(b) whether with the use of latest technology, the total deposits in a mine can be estimated fairly well;

(c) if so, whether Government have made any study of mines in the country which are likely to be exhausted in the next 25 years or so; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) If the deposits are well explored, total deposits in a mine can be estimated fairly well by use of modern technology except in the mines of mica and asbestos where the mineral occurs in an erratic manner.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Lead bank consultative committees in districts

3755. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a district lead bank consultative committee in each district;

(b) if so, whether there are elected representatives members in such committees; and

(c) if not, whether his Ministry propose to have elected representatives or their nominees as members of such Committees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) District level Consultative Committees set up under the 'Lead Bank Scheme' are primarily functional committees to bring the bank representatives and those of the state agencies for sorting out the problems of Co-ordination. At the District Level

Review Committees, however, which are expected to meet to review the implementation of Annual Action Plans of District Credit Plans twice a year, Reserve Bank have advised the banks to associate non-officials including elected representatives.

Commercial crops destroyed in Idukki district

3756. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that large areas of commercial crops like cardamom, tea, ginger, pepper, etc. in Idukki district have been destroyed in the recent floods;

(b) if so the extent of damage suffered on this account;

(c) whether an special financial assistance is being given to rehabilitate these crops; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Substantial damage destruction of agricultural and plantation crops which include cardamom, pepper etc. has been reported. On receipt of Memorandum from the Government of Kerala seeking central assistance for flood affected areas (including plantation crops like cardamom) a Central Study team was recently deputed to make an 'on the spot study'. The report of the Team has been received and is under examination by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is not possible at this stage to indicate the quantum of special assistance to be given to rehabilitate these crops.

Abolishing of post of non official directors in Nationalised Banks

3757. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision has been taken to abolish the posts of non-official directors in the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANA-RDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of natural rubber by S.T.C.

3758. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the quantity of natural rubber imported by the State Trading Corporation during the past three years with year wise break-up; and

(b) the import price as well as the price at which the imported, rubber is supplied to the user-industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Year-wise imports of natural rubber by S.T.C. were as follows :

Year	Quantity (Metric Tonnes)
1982-83	31,659
1983-84	32,175
1984-85	32,408

(b) Imports are made by S.T.C. at prevailing international market prices. The current Exgo-down price of imported rubber (RSS-III Grade) at Madras payable by the users is Rs. 16,500.00 per metric tonne and Rs 16,000.00 P. met for SMR-20 Grade.

[Translation]

Utilisation of installed capacity by NTC Mills

3759. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mills of National Textile Corporation are not fully utilising their installed capacity;

(b) if so, the number of NTC mills which are utilising their capacity in full and those which are producing less than their installed capacity;

(c) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that certain mills of NTC are not operating full time due to the policy of the management;

(d) if so, whether Government have received any memorandum in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(f) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :
(a) and (b) The nationalised mills of National Textile Corporation attained utilisation of 71.6% of spinning capacity and 70.1% of weaving capacity during the month of June, 1985. This level of utilisation compares well with the utilisation levels attained by the rest of the textile industry.

(c) to (f) Yes, Sir. In some case, highly uneconomic capacities are not operated fully in view of the power situation, commercial viability and market conditions. Government have received from time to time representations that capacity utilisation in some units has fallen. The position is periodically reviewed by NTC so as to achieve optimum capacity utilisation and reduce losses of NTC.

Losses in public corporations

3760. **SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have gone into the question of public corporations continuously running in losses;

(b) if so, the number of public corporations under his Ministry which are continuously running in losses and the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have decided to close these corporations;

(d) if so, the names of the corporations which are being closed because of their running in losses and the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) is the only Undertaking under this Ministry which has been continuously running in losses. The TTCI has been making losses since 1930-81 and its accumulated losses upto 31.3.85 are estimated at Rs. 12.67 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The affairs of the TTCI are under constant review.

[English]

Percentage increase in profits, wages and capacity utilisation of public sector undertakings

3761. **SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage increase or decrease in net profits of Central public sector undertakings in 1984-85 as compared to the previous year;

(b) the percentage increase in salary and allowances in 1984-85 as compared to the previous year; and

(c) percentage increase or decrease in capacity utilisation as compared to the previous year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The accounts for 1984-85 of most of the

Central public sector undertakings are under various stages of audit and finalisation and therefore the details for 1984-85 asked for are not available. However as per the flash results based on quick estimates received from the Undertakings, there has been a 289.19% increase in their overall net profits in 1984-85 as compared to 1983-84.

Figures of salary and allowances for 1984-85 are not yet available.

The details of capacity utilisation percentage in certain major sectors for the above two years are given in the statement below.

Figures for 1984-85 are provisional.

Statement

Product	Capacity utilisation in percentage	
	1984-85	1983-84
(1)	(2)	(3)
Steel (Ingot)	66	63
Saleable Steel	73	66
Lignite	109	102
Aluminium	87	61
Zinc	68	72
Lead	47	70
Copper	86	74
Cement (Excl. Dadri)	78	78
Fertilizer 'N'	62	56
Fertilizer P ₂ O ₅	51	44

Progress in implementation of IRDP programme

3762. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the overall progress in the implementation of credit based anti-poverty programme of IRDP; and

(b) the measures being taken by Government to accelerate the implementation of IRDP-Programme through bank finance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The overall progress made under IRDP during the Sixth Plan period is as under :

1980-85 (Sixth Plan period)

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| 1. No. of beneficiaries (target) | 15 million |
| 2. No. of beneficiaries actually covered | 16.42 million |
| 3. Term credit disbursed (Rs. in crores) | Rs. 3080.41 |

It will be seen from the above data that the target for assistance under IRDP have been achieved.

Government of India intends to continue IRDP programme during the Seventh Plan by making suitable modifications based on the lessons learnt during the implementation of the programme. Those beneficiaries who received financial assistance during the Sixth Plan, but could

not cross the poverty line due to reasons beyond their control will be considered for supplementary assistance.

Measures to tap black money in Dhanbad coal belt

3763. BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special measures have been taken to tap black money and tax unassessed income with particular reference to Dhanbad Mafia and black money market of coal belt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether he is aware that such Mafia is running a huge business on the coal slurry of Sadamdih on the bed of Damodar without paying any tax; and

(e) if so, the steps taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) All possible steps, including administrative, legislative and institutional, are being taken to tap black money and tax unassessed income wherever found necessary. Searches were recently conducted by the Income-tax Department in Dhanbad and Jharia. Unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 34.84 lakhs were seized.

Voluntary retirement scheme for female workers in B.C.C.L.

3764. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new voluntary retirement scheme has been started for the female workers in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. in 1985;

(b) if, so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of female workers who opted for the scheme till 1st July, 1985 with area-wise break-up;

(d) whether it is a fact that in this scheme, a female employee while retiring can give only a male substitute and not a female; and

(e) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir w.e.f. 19.3.85 It is valid till 20.8.85.

(b) Under this scheme, any permanent female employee of 56 years of age or below, employed either in piece-rated or time-rated jobs, may opt for voluntary retirement in favour of her husband or son or son-in-law. The age limit for the nominee for employment is 35 years in the case of husband and 30 years in the case of son-in-law. A genuine nominee may be offered employment in piece-rated or in time-rated category, according to the needs, depending upon his suitability.

(c) 68 workers opted under the scheme till 1.7.85. The area-wise break up is given below :—

Barora	3
Bhagaband	34
Bhowra	31

(d) Yes, Sir,

(e) B.C.C.L. had inherited, at the time of nationalisation, a large female workforce. The scope of employment of women in mines is restricted by Sec. 46 (1) of the Mines Act, 1952, which provides that no woman shall be employed in any mine above ground except between 6 AM and 7 PM and in any part of a mine which is underground. This restricts the scope of employment of women in the mine.

Restoration of tax free limit for gifts

3765. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether tax free limit for gifts is to be restored to original level; and

(b) whether Government propose to exempt gifts to blood relations of the family and thus simplify the present hardship to dependents and blood relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Section 5(2) of the Gift-tax Act, 1958 provides that gift-tax shall not be charged in respect of gifts made by any person during the previous year, subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,000 in value. The Government do not have under their consideration at present any proposal to modify the said exemption limit of Rs. 5,000. However, the exemption limits under the various direct tax enactments are reviewed periodically and modified to the extent considered necessary.

2. Clauses (vii), (viii), (ix) and (xii) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Gift-tax Act, 1958 already provide for exemptions, subject to certain limits and conditions, in respect of gifts made by any person to his relatives.

Misuse of foreign exchange by executives of M/s ITC Ltd; during their foreign trips

3766. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the executives and directors of M/s. I.T.C. Ltd. carry foreign exchange for misuse on their foreign trips although they have their foreign branches abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any enquiry is proposed.

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

[*Translation*]

Functioning or branches of State Bank in Almora-Nainital and Pithoragarh districts

3767. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of the branches of State Bank which are functioning in Almora-Nainital and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether Government propose to set up an office of the Regional Manager of State Bank in Almora so as to maintain necessary coordination between financial dealings and functioning of these branches; and

(c) if so, the time by which this office will be opened there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The required information is given below :—

District	Number of branches of State Bank of India functioning as at the end of March 1985	Number of licences pending with the State Bank of India for opening new offices
Almora	23	1
Nainital	28	4
Pithoragarh	22	1
Total	73	6

(Data provisional)

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not received any proposal from the State Bank of India for opening a Regional Office in Almora. It is for the bank to decide whether it is necessary to open a Regional Office at any place depending upon factors like the number of branches in the area, need for effective supervision, convenience, involvement of additional expenditure etc.

Request of UP government for increase in share in small savings revenues

3768. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government have made request for increase in the percentage of amount to be paid to the State out of revenue received by way of small savings;

(b) if so, whether Government have received such requests from other States also; and

(c) if so, the names of those States and the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Uttar Pradesh Government have written for an increase in the percentage of loans to be released to the State against not Small Savings Collections;

(b) and (c) In the Meeting of the National Savings Central Advisory Board held at New Delhi on the 29th May, 1984, the States of Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bangal had suggested that loans against net Small Savings collections may be enhanced from the present level of 66.6 per cent of the net collections. It was not possible to accept the suggestion in view of budgetary constraints and the liberal terms that these loans enjoy.

[English]

Interest free credit from world bank

3769. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of interest free credit expected from the World Bank in the current financial year;

(b) the total amount of such interest-free credit asked for by Government from the World Bank; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) World Bank group lending consists of loans from IBRD which carry interest at variable rates and also credits from International Development Association (IDA) which do not carry any interest but have a service charge of 0.75%. In addition, IBRD loans and IDA credits carry commitment charges of 0.75 per cent and 0.50 per cent respectively. The quantum of likely IBRD loans and IDA credits together from the world Bank is normally indicated in the Aid India Consortium meeting held in Paris every year. For the World Bank fiscal year 1986 (1st July 1985 to 30th June, 1986) the Bank has indicated that a sum of US \$ 2500 million is the likely amount of assistance to India, without giving the break up between IDA and IBRD. This depends on other factors like the exact number of projects for which assistance can be tied up, the availability of Bank group funds and the status of preparation and processing.

Improvement in export of shrimp

3770. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been the leading exporter of shrimp during the last few years;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that its position in the International sea-food market has recently been affected by other countries; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) India continues to be the leading exporter of Shrimp to the World's largest shrimp markets, viz. Japan and USA during the last few years. To sustain this position, Government proposes to take a number of steps to increase shrimp production for export, which include development and promotion of prawn

farming and encouragement for value added items.

Decline in World Bank Group's Assistance to India

3771. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank Group's assistance to India during the fiscal year ending June 1985 declined by 375 million dollars over the record 2.7 billion dollars in the previous year ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

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

(b) This is mainly due to the decline in IDA lending which came down from \$ 1001 million in FY 1984 to \$ 672.9 million in FY 1985. The size of IDA-7 (1985-87) has been fixed at \$ 9 billion as against \$ 12 billion for IDA-6. Since FY 1985 is the first year of IDA-7, the cut in the size of IDA-7 is reflected in the share of India.

Supply of coal to thermal power units in Gujarat

3772. SHRI RANJITSINGH GAEKWAD : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to inadequate supply of coal the thermal power generation in Gujarat has been crippled since May 1985 and increasing burden on the petroleum sector as the excess provision of High Speed Diesel (HSD) has been made by Government to keep the project going ;

(b) the statistical details regarding despatches of coal from pitheads against the requirement made to thermal power generating units (unit-wise) in Gujarat during April, May, June 1985 and the corresponding period in 1984 ; and

(c) the steps taken to meet coal requirements of the Thermal Power Units of State ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No Sir. Adequate coal supplies have been made to suit the consumption of various Power Stations in Gujarat. However, the coal stocks at Ukai and Wanakbori have remained at very low levels due to the inability of the power stations to unload the wagons.

(b) The details regarding despatches of coal to Thermal Power generating units in Gujarat during April, May and June 1985 and the corresponding period in 1984 are as under :—

(Figures in '000' tonnes)

Name of TPS	Monthly Linkage	Actual monthly consumption (March-April' 85)	Average Despatches during April-June' 85	Despatches during April-June' 84
1	2	3	4	5
1. Ahmedabad	155	130.0	366.5	282.0
2. Ukai	240	137.0	578.6	522.0
3. Gandhi Nagar	90	63.5	153.0	218.0
4. Dhuvaran	30	17.5	58.2	121.0*

	1	2	3	4	5
5. Wanakbori		250	150.0	399.4	352.0 *This is mainly an oil fired station.
6. Kandla		5	N.A.	3.2	2.0
7. Shapur		5	N.A.	5.9	3.0
8. Utran		5	N.A.	8.2	5.0
				2073.0	1505.0

(c) Constant liaison is being maintained between the agencies involved, namely, Coal Companies, Railways and Electricity Boards, Regular coordination meetings are also held among concerned Ministries, as a result of which there has been substantial improvement in the coal supplies to Thermal Power Stations during 1985-86 as compared to the previous year. Further, a plan has been drawn up by the Department of Coal, Department of Power and the Ministry of Railways to build up stocks of one month's requirement at the major power stations. However, in the case of Ukai and Wanakbori, it has not been possible to build up stocks due to the inability of the power stations to unload the wagons. Similarly, the building up of 1 months stocks at Ahmedabad power station has not been possible due to the limited stocking space at this power station.

Decision to recruit graduate engineers in S.A.I.L. by campus interview

3773. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(b) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited have decided to recruit graduate engineers by campus interview only from Indian Institutes of Technology, Banaras Hindu University and Indian School of Mines ;

(b) if so, the reasons for having such recruitment only from a few selected institutions ;

(c) whether it has come to the notice of Government that this new policy of recruitment of graduate engineers have caused

Serious resentment and dissatisfaction among the students of other engineering colleges in general and the Regional Engineering College, Rourkela in particular ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Recruitment of graduate engineers by the Steel Authority of India Limited is made through All India advertisement from the open market. In 1984-85, in addition to this method of recruitment, campus recruitment was made from institutes of all-India repute such as the Indian Institute of Technology and the Institute of Technology of Banaras Hindu University. In the case of mining discipline, campus recruitment was made from the Indian School of mines, Dhanbad. Graduate engineers of various institutes including those of the Regional Engineering College of Rourkela and other engineering colleges of Orissa are eligible for selection as Management Trainees in the Steel Authority of India Limited in response to the all-India advertisements from open market selection.

(c) and (d) Rourkela Steel Plant Executive Association has represented against the selections of Management Trainees through the campus interview. However, since there is no move by SAIL to replace the system of open market recruitment by the campus recruitment system meritorious students are not being deprived from applying and competing in the selection as Management Trainees of Steel Authority of India Limited,

Setting up of all India leather board

3774. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the review Committee of leather and leather manufacturers have suggested to Government to set up an All India Leather Board ; and

(b) if so, Government reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have not taken a view in the matter so far.

Proposal to set up a high level committee for Indo-China trade

3775. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high level committee for strengthening Indo-China trade ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of major Equipment for V.S.P. by consortium of public sector units.

3776. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a consortium of public sector units will manufacture the major equipment for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) There

is no consortium of public sector units manufacturing equipment and machinery for Visakhapatnam Steel Project. Each of the public sector undertakings like Heavy Engineering Corporation, Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation, Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants of India Limited, Andhra Pradesh Heavy Machinery & Engineering Limited, Ms/. Jessops, M/s. Andrew Yule, M/s. Burn Standard, M/s. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited and M/s. Bharat Heavy Plants and Vessels Limited, etc. are supplying equipments to the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant Project, independently.

*[Translation]***Exports/Imports made by states and union Territories**

3777. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the year-wise value of exports and imports during the last three year by States and Union Territories, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : Statistics of India's foreign trade are compiled on an all India basis and not on a State-wise basis.

*[English]***Deposits and advances made by Nationalised Banks**

3778. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) total deposit in each nationalised bank State and Union Territory-wise as on 31 January, 1984 ;

(b) the loan assistance given by each nationalised bank State and Union Territory-wise as on 31 January, 1984 ; and

(c) the percentage of advances to priority sector by each nationalised bank State and Union Territory-wise as on 31 January, 1984 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Priority Sector Advances to total advances of Public Sector Banks as on the last Friday of December 1983 are set out in the statement given below.
(c) State-wise data on Deposits, Advances, Priority Sector Advances and Share of

Statement

Deposits, advances and priority sector advances and shares of priority sectors of public sector banks

(As on the last Friday of December 1983)

Region/State Union Territory	Deposits	Aggregate Advances	Priority Sector Advances	(Rs. crores) share of P.S. advances to aggregate advances
I. Northern Region	11927	7732	2944	38.1
1. Haryana	1050	778	530	68.1
2. Himachal Pradesh	361	155	105	67.7
3. Jammu & Kashmir	297	114	80	70.2
4. Punjab	3163	1440	989	68.7
5. Rajasthan	1308	896	521	58.1
6. Chandigarh	439	720	194	26.9
7. Delhi	5309	3629	525	14.5
II North-Eastern Region :	903	360	186	51.7
1. Assam	637	269	118	43.9
2. Meghalaya	85	19	1	63.2
3. Manipur	22	12	8	66.7
4. Tripura	51	31	26	83.9
5. Nagaland	42	18	12	66.7
6. Arunachal Pradesh	23	5	4	80.0
7. Mizoram	18	4	5	125.0
8. Sikkim	25	3	1	33.3
III Eastern Region :	9122	4893	1660	33.9
1. Bihar	2592	1033	586	56.7
2. Orissa	714	525	306	58.3
3. West Bengal	5802	3331	766	23.0
4. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	14	4	2	50.0
IV. Central Region	8000	3793	2178	57.4
1. Madhya Pradesh	2843	1175	654	55.7
2. Uttar Pradesh	5975	2618	1524	58.2

V. Western Region :	14400	11262	2880	25.6
1. Gujarat	4122	2118	963	45.5
2. Maharashtra	9765	8966	1849	20.6
3. Goa, Daman & Diu	509	176	66	37.5
4. Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4	3	2	66.7
VI. Southern Region	11231	8751	4089	46.7
1. Andhra Pradesh	3232	2293	1292	56.3
2. Karanataka	2790	2240	1015	45.3
3. Kerala	1753	1147	563	49.1
4. Tamil Nadu	3371	3023	1192	39.4
5. Pondicherry	83	48	27	56.3
6. Lakshadweep	2	0.31	0.18	58.1
GRAND TOTAL	55583	36791	13937	37.9

Note : Data are provisional.

Working of free trade zones

3780. SHRI S M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working of the four free trade zones set up about two years ago has given encouraging picture;

(b) whether the details pertaining to new impetus to economic activity and export business etc. in respect of those four free trade zones will be laid on the Table; and

(c) whether Government are considering some other ports also for according similar status ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Four Export Processing Zones at Madras, Cochin, Falta (W. Bengal), and NOIDA (U P.) are being set up. The progress of works is satisfactory. Industrial production in these zones will start after the infrastructural facilities have been fully established.

(c) None of the ports has been accorded the status of an Export Processing Zone. Performance of the four new EPZs at Cochin, Madras, Falta & NOIDA would be watched before establishment of any other new Zone is considered.

Concessional credits to small farmers

3781. SHRI S M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the recommendations made by the Reserve Bank of India for providing concessional credit to small industries;

(b) whether the RBI has issued instructions to the nationalised banks to suitably relax the conditions of sanction and margins to the customers in Punjab and Haryana;

(c) whether these are applicable to other States also; and

(d) the amounts given by the nationalised banks over and above those that were given to small industries in different States after the issue of the above instructions by RBI ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) In order to extend concessional credit to small scale industries sector, Reserve Bank of India has issued suitable guidelines to the commercial banks from time to time. These instructions relate to reduced margin money requirements, concessional interest rates, non-

insistence of securities/guarantee in respect of loans upto Rs. 25,000/- etc. The advances to the small scale industries sector constitute an important sector of the priority sector advances.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has directed all the scheduled commercial banks (including nationalised banks) that the relaxations in regard to credit facilities allowed to borrowers in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh should continue upto the end of December, 1985. These mainly include enhancement of working capital limits by 10% and also reduction in margin by 10%.

(c) The relaxation mentioned above are applicable to Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh only.

(d) The present data reporting system of Reserve Bank of India does not generate the data in the manner asked for. The time, effort and money to be spent for collecting such data would perhaps not commensurate with the result desired for.

Scheme for modernisation of mills of NTC during 7th Plan

3782. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation has proposed any scheme of Rs. 302 crores for modernisation of its mills during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the total production and profit by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan in case the proposals are implemented;

(c) whether uptill date there is no modernisation in the real sense except rehabilitation and renovation; and

(d) whether an amount of Rs. 300 crores already spent on piece meal modernisation and Rs. 150 had gone into essential services like renovation of buildings, etc, from which there is no tangible return in investments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) National Textile Corporation has estimated a requirement of Rs. 302 crores for modernisation and suggested a plan provision accordingly.

(b) It has been estimated that with the proposed investment of the said Rs. 302 crores, the nationalised units, as a whole, would in the terminal year of the plan, reach a total production value of Rs. 1063 crores, with a cash profit of nearly Rs. 33 crores.

(c) and (d) An amount of about Rs. 301 crores has been spent upto 31st March, 1985 on modernisation/renovation of the nationalised units of NTC. Of this a sum of about Rs. 167 crores has been spent on new machines; and the balance has been spent on repairs of machinery, civil construction, boilers, material handling and other engineering items etc. To the extent that expenditure had to be incurred on rehabilitation of dilapidated buildings and outdated machinery inherited from the erstwhile private owners, the investments have not directly contributed to technological upgradation and improved profitability of these NTC units.

Consultancy job for National Textile corporations in Algeria

3783. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM :
SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation made a major breakthrough by bagging its first consultancy job in Algeria;

(b) whether a high level team signed a contract to restart and manage a closed textile mill; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) The Algerian Organisation, Soitex, has

approached National Industrial Development Corporation (NIDC) for providing Technical and Management Services for a new Silk Mill at Tlemcen Algeria. National Textile Corporation is providing necessary technical assistance to NIDC in this regard. A delegation, including the Managing Director of NTC, has visited Algeria in July, 1985 and progress has been made in discussing a contract for the said purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban imposed by USA on import of Indian handloom goods

3784. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether handloom units in India are facing trouble because of ban imposed by U.S.A. on import of Indian handloom goods in that country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to help the handloom units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Exports of handloom made-up products from India are likely to suffer on account of a restrictive definition of the term hand-made notified by the US Government on June 24, 1985. According to this definition exports of handlooms made-ups from India and other countries which are machine stitched or hemmed will not qualify for exempt status but instead be treated as mill-made items.

(b) Government have formally protested against the restrictive action of the US Government in regard to exports of handloom made-ups from India and have also sought formal consultations with the Government of USA to resolve this problem.

Multi-fibre agreement at Geneva

3785. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA :

SHRI B.V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether India attended the talks on Multi-Fibre Agreement at Geneva which were held from July 23, 1985;

(b) if so, whether the question of continuing with MFA in regard to European Economic Community was discussed there; and

(c) whether Government have any plans to have bilateral talks with EEC on the MFA particularly in regard to restrictions placed by EEC on several Indian textile items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The MFA in a multilateral instrument within whose framework bilateral agreements are entered into by the signatories to the MFA. The EEC proposed that the MFA should be extended beyond its present term which expires in July 1986. Discussions on the future of the MFA are held in the Textile Committee of GATT which is the appropriate forum for the purpose,

Tax arrears in the country

3786. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Income-tax and Central Excise arrears in the country as a whole at present;

(b) the amount locked up in legal cases;

(c) the number of companies against whom Income-tax and Central Excise amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs and above are outstanding; and

(d) the effective measures bring taken to recover the same and bring the defaulters to book ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The amount of Income-tax and Central Excise arrears in the country as a whole are as under :

Income Tax : The latest figures of Income-tax arrears are available as on 31.12.84. As on that date, the figures of Tax in Arrears and Demand Created but not fallen due are as under :—

(In crores of rupees)

Tax in arrears. 1271.98

Demand created but not fallen due. 608.55

Central Excise : A total of Rs. 521.63 crores is pending recovery as on 31.5 1985.

(b) Cases are pending before various judicial authorities involving various grounds. However, quantification of revenue involved is possible only after decision of the appellate authorities/courts are available.

(c) The number of companies against whom income-tax amounting to Rs. 10 lakhs and above are outstanding as on 31.3 1985 is 964. The number of the companies from whom central excise arrears amounting to more than Rs. 10 lakhs are outstanding is very large and the time and labour involved in collecting the information will be dis-proportionately high. However, if the Hon'ble Member specifies any particular factory or group of factories the information can be collected and furnished.

(d) Recovery of arrears of Income-tax and Central excise is an on going function and such measures (administrative legal and others which may be persuasive and coercive) as are considered necessary are taken from time to time.

Ostentatious expenditure cases detected by income tax authorities

3787 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 757 on 22nd March, 1985 regarding ostentatious expenditure cases detected by Income Tax authorities and state :

(a) the guidelines issued in the matter, as asked for in part (b) of the question referred to above;

(b) whether he will state some typical cases of this nature in which action has been taken in actual practice to serve as a deterrent; and

(c) the nature of action taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Guidelines denote that the ostentatiousness of the expenditure will depend on the status of the assessee with reference to the expenditure which is debited in the books of accounts or is admitted by him. In two cases the enquiries made u/s 133A(5) resulted in declaration of amounts of Rs. 4,85,686 and Rs. 3,84,083 as marriage expenses by assessees.

Contraband goods carried by sagar shakti vessel

3788. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Blitz' of 18 May, 1985 wherein it has been stated that Sagar Shakti Vessel (drilling) was built in Singapore and brought to India in 1982;

(b) whether it has also been stated that while coming to India, this vessel carried a lot of contraband goods like colour TV sets, etc. and the Custom Department rummaged the vessel and interrogated;

(c) if so, whether no custom duty was levied;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) whether Government propose to reopen the case and take action against the persons found guilty ?

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

(b), (c) and (d) on 16th—18th October, 1982, officers of Bombay Customs Collectorate have seized certain electronic and other miscellaneous dutiable goods, totally valued at Rs. 3.19 lakhs from the Oil and Natural Gas Commission Jack up Rig "Sagar Shakti" which arrived from Singapore. After completion of necessary investigations, the case has been adjudicated resulting in confiscation of a part of the goods absolutely and a part has been cleared on payment of redemption fine and/or appropriate rate of Customs duty. Certain goods were allowed to be re-shipped out of India.

(e) No Sir no further action is contemplated.

Appointment of SC/ST persons as distributors dealers and agents by S.A.I.L.

3789. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of distributors/dealers and agents working in India appointed by Steel Authority of India/Limited;

(b) the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons awarded the dealerships/ distributorships and agency by the Steel Authority of India Limited;

(c) whether there is a policy of his Ministry to appoint the distributors/dealers or agents under an offer of the business opportunity under Scheduled Caste and scheduled Tribes category according to reservation quota; and

(d) if the reply to part (c) be in affirmative, the action proposed to be taken

by Government to appoint the dealers/distributors or agents from amongst the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Presumably, the reference is to the appointment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes persons as distributors, dealers and agents for distribution of iron and steel produced by Steel Authority of India Limited. There is no policy of appointing distributors, dealers or agents for distribution of iron and steel produced by Steel Authority of India Limited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Steel production in steel plants

3790. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of steel in steel plants in the public sector in the country and the number of persons employed therein;

(b) the comparative position of production in our public sector steel plants with other countries in the world; and

(c) Government's plans to make operations in the steel plants more economic and hence better performance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The total production of saleable steel in the public sector steel plants under Steel Authority of India Limited for 1984-85 and 1985-86 is given below :-

Year	Integrated Steel Plants	(lakh tonnes)
		Alloy Steels Plant & Salem Steel Plant
1984-85	52.8	0.76
1985-86 (Plan)	59.6	0.82

The number of persons employed in Steel Authority of India Limited Plants (including Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited, Burnpur) as on 31.3.1985 is as under :-

Executives	Non-Executives	Total
16,339	2,17,537	2,33,876

In addition, there are 8,088 employees in position in other units of Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited comprising of 453 Executive and 7,635 Non-executive employees.

(b) As per the latest data released by the International Iron and Steel Institute, Brussels, SAIL ranked 15th during the year 1984 among the largest steel producers of the world.

(a) Steel Authority of India Limited have formulated schemes for technological upgradation of the steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Burnpur (IISCO) at Rs. 990 crores, Rs. 690 crores and Rs. 930 crores respectively. Investment decisions will be taken on these proposals after the VII Plan allocations of the Steel Industry are finalised.

To improve their financial performance in 1985-86 the public sector steel plants will also increase their production of steel from 5.28 million tonnes in 1984-85 to 5.9 million tonnes in 1985-86. They will upgrade their technology regimes, improve yields of by-products and attain better recovery of waste and secondary arisings, reduce working capital, reduce inventories, optimise captive power generation, improve maintenance and increase production of demand oriented products by diversifying their product mix. Efforts are also being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality.

Orders placed with National textile corporation by state governments, etc. for supply of cloth

3791. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state ;

(a) whether National Textile Corporation (NTC) has secured an order from Government of Karnataka for supply of casement cloth and drill to that state;

(b) if so, the total value of the order so placed with the NTC and the quantity of the cloth and drill to be supplied;

(c) whether NTC have also received similar order from other public sector undertakings and State Governments, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how much quantity of cloth order has been placed by Government of Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE (MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 32 lakh metres of casement cloth and 3 lakh metres of drill with a total value of about Rs. 309.55 lakhs is to be supplied by the National Textile Corporation to the Government of Karnataka.

(c) Details of orders received by NTC from other Public Sector Undertakings and State Governments during the current financial year (upto 8.8.85) are given below :-

	Qty. of cloth	Value of cloth
	Lac metres	(Rs. in lacs)
(i) Public Sector Undertakings	12.01	541.00
(ii) Other State Government	31.65	329.00
(iii) Karnataka State Government	35.00	309.00
		1179.00

(d) Government of Andhra Pradesh has placed an order of 7.62 lakh metres of cloth.

Increase in export of jute to foreign countries

3792. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the export of jute goods to various foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details of strategy prepared by Government for export of jute goods;

(c) whether some delegations have visited foreign countries in this connection;

(d) if so, the names and status of the members of the delegations and names of countries visited/to be visited for the purpose;

(e) the value of the orders received country-wise and quantity-wise; and

(f) the steps taken to face the competition from other jute producing countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b) Government have been making all possible efforts to increase the export of jute goods to various foreign countries. The strategy for promoting export of jute goods consists of gearing up the manufacturing capacity for production of jute-synthetic union fabrics and to explore scope for indigenous manufacturing capacity of suitable machinery; encouraging efforts by exporters for establishing warehouses in suitable locations abroad e.g. Western Europe for stoking moderate quantity of jute goods for ensuring off the shelf delivery to end-users at reasonable prices developing container terminal facility for jute goods outside port for reducing high incidence of ocean freight utilising proceed of jute cess for research and development and export promotion efforts creating buffer stock of raw jute, whenever feasible for ensuring stability in supply of raw material at reasonable price to industry and intensifying export promotion efforts in various foreign markets through participation in specialised fairs and exhibitions, sending of Government-industry delegations

and also through discussions in various multilateral fora.

(c) to (e) As statement is given below

(f) In order to develop the export of jute goods and to retain foreign markets for jute goods, the Government have taken the following steps :-

1. providing higher CCS to Jute Carpet Backing Cloth and Yarn on the basis of matching performance by the industry;
2. formation of STC jute industry consortium on 50 : 50 loss-sharing basis for exports of carpet backing cloth to North America;
3. encouraging development of exportable products through R&D efforts; and
4. constituting a new JMDC and Jute Fund out of proceeds of jute cess to give boost to R & D efforts and export promotion.

Statement

Government have been sending delegations consisting of official as well as non-official members to various countries from time to time in order to boost export of jute goods. During this financial year, a jute delegation visited U.S.A. during July, 1985 synchronising with International Carpet & Rug Market at Atlanta in USA. The composition of delegation was as under :-

1. Shri S.S. Varma, Secretary (Textiles);
2. Shri B.R. Dasu, Jute Commissioner;
3. Shri M. Mittar, Director (Marketing) National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited;
4. Shri B.K. Jalan, Chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association; and
5. Shri M. Poddar, by, Chairman, Indian Jute Mills Association.

The jute goods export contracts received for registration by Jute Commissioner's office during last year are indicated below :

S. No.	Country/Region	Qty '000 M. Tonnes
		1984
1.	North America	33.6
2.	West Europe	58.5
3.	Japan	6.0
4.	Australia	6.4
5.	New Zealand	2.6
6.	Sudan	Nil
7.	Africa (excluding Sudan)	1.5
8.	Middle East (excluding Iran)	8.1
9.	Iran	0.5
10.	East Europe (excluding USSR)	14.8
11.	USSR	216.0
12.	Others	15.4
	Total :	363.4

Capacity utilisation of steel plants

3793. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the public sector units functioning in the field of steel at present;

(b) the details of items being produced in these units, their annual production capacity and the annual production achieved during the last three years in each unit, year-wise;

(c) whether the production in these units is not as per the capacity;

(d) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken to solve the problem and increase the production in these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The public sector steel units under Steel Authority of India Limited functioning at present are :-

Integrated steel plants -

- (i) Bhilai Steel Plant
- (ii) Rourkela Steel Plant
- (iii) Bokaro Steel Plant
- (iv) Durgapur Steel Plant
- (v) Indian Iron & Steel Company Ltd, Burnpur

Alloy and Special Steel Plants :

- (i) Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur
- (ii) Salem Steel Plant, Salem.

(b) The details of major items produced in their units are :

1. Bhilai Steel Plant

- (i) Railway track material (Rails and crossing sleepers)
- (ii) Structural Steel
- (iii) Wire rods
- (iv) Merchant Mill Products
- (v) Heavy Plates
- (vi) Semis (Blooms and Billets)

2. Rourkela Steel Plant

- (i) Plates
- (ii) HR Plates and sheets and coils
- (iii) CR Sheets and strips
- (iv) Electrical steel sheets
- (v) Electrolytic tin plates
- (vi) Galvanised sheets
- (vii) ERW and SW Plates
- (viii) CRGO/CRNO Sheets
- (ix) Slabs.

(iv) GP/GC sheets

(v) Semis (Blooms, Slabs, Sheet bar, Billets, etc.)

The Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur and Salem Steel Plant, Salem specialise in the production of alloy and special steels. The Salem Steel Plant exclusively produces stainless sheets and coils. The Alloy Steel Plant produces billets, bars forgings and sheets and plates.

The plantwise production of saleable steel in fulfilment to targets and capacities for the last three years is given in the statement below.

3. Bokaro Steel Plant

- (i) Hot rolled sheets and plates
- (ii) Cold rolled sheets and coils
- (iii) Slabs

(c) to (e) SAIL plants have not been able to operate at their rated capacities mainly because of constraints of coking coal of the right quality, deterioration in other raw materials, inadequate power supply, obsolete technology and ageing of the equipment. Efforts are being made to ensure adequate inputs and of the right quality, improvement in raw materials, better maintenance and adherence to technological norms. Due to these efforts, SAIL plants have been able to improve their capacity utilisation as may be seen from the table given below :—

4. Durgapur Steel Plant

- (i) Merchant Mill Products
- (ii) Medium Sections
- (iii) Skelp
- (iv) Railway materials (wheel & axles sets, sleeper and fish-plates)
- (v) Semis (Blooms, Billets, etc)

SALEABLE STEEL : (Million tonnes)

5. Inaian iron and steel company limited, Buranpur.

- (i) Structural steels
- (ii) Merchant Mill Products
- (iii) Black sheet

Year	SAIL (including IISCO)	% capacity fulfilment
1983-84	4.77	66
1984-85	5.28	73
1985-86	5.96	79
	(Target)	

Statement

Salable steel production and capacity utilisation of integrated steel plants since 1982-83 to 1984-85.

(in 000' tonnes)

P L A N T	1982-83			1983-84			1984-85		
	Rated Capacity.	Actual	% Fulfilment/ Rated capacity	Rated Capacity.	Actual	% Fulfilment/ Rated capacity.	Rated Capacity.	Actual	% fulfilment/ Rated capacity.
Bhilai Steel Plant	1965	1838	94	1965	1575	80	1965	1810	90@
Durgapur Steel Plant	1239	813	66	1239	602	49	1239	621	50
Rourkela Steel Plant	1225	992	81	1225	862	70	1225	1013	83
Bokaro Steel Plant	1971	1529	78	1971	1288	65	1971	1459	74
Indian Iron & Steel Company Limited.	800	500	63	800	444	55	800	380	48
Steel Authority of India Limited Group	7200	5672	79	7200	4771	66	7200	5283	73@
Alloy Steel Plant	60	46.80	78	60	43.69	72.8	60	58.87	98.1
Salem Steel Plant	32	6.75	21.1	32	6.93	21.7	32	17.13	53.5

@ with respect to 2.5 Mt. stage at Bhilai Steel Plant.

Memorandum from colliery mazdoor sabha of India, Raniganj

3794. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any Memorandum dated 10th April, 1985 from the Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India, Raniganj, West Bengal;

(b) if so, the points raised in the Memorandum; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken by Government to provide minimum amenities like drinking and bathing water to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Colliery Mazdoor Sabha of India (CITU), in their Memorandum, have highlighted the problem of non-availability of drinking and bathing water for the workers of Mithapur, Nageshwar(R) collieries of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. at Dhouraha.

(c) Eastern Coalfields Ltd. have been directed to look into the complaint and report to the Department of Coal, after taking necessary remedial steps.

Geological scientists sent for training abroad in marine geology

3795. SHRI K.S. RAO : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the considerations on which geological scientists are being sent for training abroad in Marine Geology;

(b) whether it is a fact that the scientists so trained in specialised fields are given posting elsewhere instead of Visakhapatnam, Calcutta or Mangalore where that training can be put to use; and

(c) whether a lady matriculate was included in the cruise in 1983 in the guise of Deputy Scientist thereby insulting the Scientists Community ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Seniority, experience in marine geology and age are the main considerations for nominating the Geological Scientists for training abroad in Marine Geology.

(b) Geological Scientists so trained are generally deployed in the Offshore Mineral Exploration and Marine Geology (OME & MG) wing of Geological Survey of India at Calcutta, Visakhapatnam, Cochin and Mangalore. Only one scientist after training was deployed for gold investigation, for which also he had special expertise. Three Geological scientists of Marine Geology discipline were permitted to join other GSI units on humanitarian grounds after they served in the OME and MG Wing for periods ranging from three to seven years. Services of these officers would still be available for OME and MG work as and when required. Another Officer is at present working in the Centre for Earth Science Studies, Trivandrum on lien, where his assignment is connected with Marine Geology.

(c) RV Samundra Manthan is registered as a "Cargo Vessel" under the Merchant Shipping Act. Therefore, all scientists of the Geological Survey of India participating in any cruise in this vessel are accommodated as supernumeraries. Mrs. Govil, wife of the Chief Steward of RV Samundra Manthan travelled as a "Supernumerary" in a short cruise of eleven days in September, 1983, purely on human consideration arising out of their extraordinary family circumstances, and with the prior approval of the Master of the vessel. She was declared as a supernumerary and not a scientist. Hence the question of insulting the scientists community does not arise.

Loan sanctioned by IFCI for projects in the country

3797. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Industrial Finance Corporation of India has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 445 crore for the projects in the country;

(b) if so, the number of the projects and State-wise break-up thereof;

(c) how may such projects have been sanctioned for the State of Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) the amount sanctioned in foreign currency and for what purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) & (b) The financial assistance sanctioned by Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) during the year 1984-85 (July-June) amounted to Rs. 450.64 crores in respect of 418

projects. The State-wise distribution of assistance sanctioned by IFCI during the year 1984-85 (July-June) is set out in the statement below.

(c) The number of projects sanctioned for Andhra Pradesh is 35.

(d) The foreign currency sub-loans sanctioned during the year 1984-85 (July-June) amounted to Rs. 99.85 crores. Foreign currency subloans are sanctioned for import of capital goods for new industrial projects as well as for expansion, diversification, modernisation or renovation of existing projects.

Statement

INDUSTRIAL FINANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

Statement showing the States/Territorywise distributions of financial assistance sanctioned by IFCI during the year 1984-85 (July-June)

Assistance Sanctioned)

State/Territory	No. of Projects	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	35	45.79
Assam	1	3.20
Bihar	7	4.76
Gujarat	33	34.13
Haryana	11	6.42
Himachal Pradesh	7	5.71
Jammu & Kashmir	5	7.66
Karnataka	27	24.71
Kerala	13	16.28
Madhya Pradesh	24	23.11
Maharashtra	57	65.88
Nagaland	1	1.41
Orissa	10	20.61
Punjab	23	17.81
Rajasthan	32	25.51
Tamil Nadu	42	32.41
Uttar Pradesh	54	84.81

1		3
West Bengal	20	21.33
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	0.30
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	0.61
Delhi	8	5.17
Goa	2	1.25
Pondicherry	2	1.36
Chandigarh	2	0.41
	418	450.64

Model conduct and disciplinary rules for public sector undertakings

3798. SHRI AMITABH BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has compiled Model Conduct and Disciplinary Rules for Public Sector Undertakings with a view to curb irregularities and malpractices;

(b) if so, whether Government will lay a copy thereof on the Table of the House; and

(c) the names of Public Undertakings which have adopted these Rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Model Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules applicable to the employees of public sector enterprises were prepared and circulated by the Bureau of Public Enterprises in 1974.

(b) A copy of the Model Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules will be placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Out of a 214 public sector enterprises, 181 enterprises have already adopted the Model Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules. Another 33 enterprises are in the process of adopting the rules. A list giving the names of the public enterprises who have adopted these rules, is given in the statement below.

Statement

Public Sector Undertakings which have adopted Model Conduct Discipline and Appeal Rules or Central Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules & C.S.S. (Conduct) Rules :—

1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands Forest & Piantation Dev. Corpn, Ltd.
2. Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd.
3. Artificial Limbs Mfg. Corpn, of India Ltd.
4. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd.
5. Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd.
6. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.
7. Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
8. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.
9. Bharat Electronics Ltd.
10. Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.

11. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.
12. Bharat Heavy Plates and Vessels Ltd.
13. Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.
14. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.
15. Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
16. Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd.
17. Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.
18. Bharat Refractories Ltd
19. Biecco Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
20. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.
21. Braithwaite & Co. Ltd.
22. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.
23. Burn Standard Co. Ltd.
24. Bongaigon Refinery & Petrochemicals Ltd.
25. Cashew Corpn. Ltd.
26. Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.
27. Central Coalfields Ltd.
28. Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.
29. Central Electronics Ltd.
30. Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.
31. Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd.
32. Coal India Ltd.
33. Cochin Refineries Ltd.
34. Cochin Shipyard Ltd.
35. Computer Maintenance Corpn. Ltd.
36. Cotton Corpn. of India Ltd.
37. Central Warehousing Corpn. Ltd.
38. Damodar Cement & Slag Ltd.
39. Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.
40. Delhi Transport Corpn. Ltd.
41. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
42. Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.
43. Electronics Trade & Technology Dev. Corpn. Ltd.
44. The Elgin Mills Company Ltd.
45. Engineers India Ltd.
46. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
47. Export Credit & Guarantee Corpn. Ltd.
48. Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.

49. Fertilizers Corpn. of India Ltd.
50. Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.
51. Food Corpn. of India
52. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd.
53. Goa Shipyard Ltd.
54. The Handicrafts and Handlooms Export Corpn. of India Ltd.
55. Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.
56. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.
57. Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.
58. Hindustan Cables Ltd.
59. Hindustan Copper Ltd.
60. Hindustan Fertilizers Corpn. Ltd.
61. Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.
62. Hindustan Latex Ltd.
63. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.
64. Hindustan Paper Corpn. Ltd.
65. Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.
66. Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co.
67. Hindustan Salts Ltd.
68. Hindustan Steel Works Construction Corpn. Ltd.
69. Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.
70. Hindustan Teleprinters Ltd.
71. Hindustan Zinc Ltd.
72. HMT Ltd.
73. HMT (International) Ltd.
74. HMT (Bearings) Ltd.
75. Housing & Urban Development Corpn.
76. Hydro Carbons (India) Ltd.
77. India Tourism Development Corpn. Ltd.
78. Indian Dairy Corpn.
79. Indian Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
80. Indian Medicines & Pharmaceuticals Corpn.
81. Indian Oil Blending Ltd.
82. Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.
83. Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd.
84. Indian Railway Construction Corpn. Ltd.
85. Indian Rare Earths Ltd.
86. Indian Road Construction Corpn.
87. Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.

88. Instrumentation Ltd.
89. Indo-Burma Petroleum Co. Ltd.
90. Jessop & Co. Ltd.
91. The Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.
92. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.
93. Lagan Jute Machinery Co. Ltd.
94. Lubrizol India Ltd.
95. Madras Fertilizers Ltd.
96. Madras Refineries Ltd.
97. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.
98. Maruti Udyog Ltd.
99. Mazagon Dock Ltd.
100. Metal Scrap Trading Corpn. Ltd.
101. Metallurgical & Engg. Consultants (I) Ltd.
102. Mica Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
103. Minerals Exploration Corpn.
104. Minerals & Metals Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.
105. Mining & Allied Machinery Corpn.
106. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.
107. Modern Food Industries (India) Ltd.
108. Nagaland Pulp & Paper Corpn.
109. National Aluminium Co. Ltd.
110. National Building Constn. Corpn. Ltd.
111. National Fertilizers Ltd.
112. National Film Development Corpon.
113. National Hydro-electric Power Corpn.
114. National Industrial Development Corpn. Ltd.
115. National Instruments Ltd.
116. National Jute Mfg. Corpn.
117. National Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.
118. National Newsprint and Paper Mill Ltd.
119. National Project Constn. Corpn.
120. National Research Development Corpn. of India.
121. National Seeds Corpn. Ltd.
122. National Small Industries Corpn. Ltd.
123. National Textile Corpn. Ltd.
124. National Textile Corpn. (Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan) Ltd.
125. National Textile Corporation (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.
126. National Textile (Maharashtra North) Ltd.

127. National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.
128. National Textile Corporation (Gujarat) Ltd.
129. National Textile Corporation (South Maharashtra) Ltd.
130. National Textile Corporation (T&P) Ltd.
131. National Textile Corporation (UP) Ltd.
132. National Textile Corporation (W.B.A. R & O) Ltd.
133. National Textile Corporation (APKKM) Ltd.
134. Neelachal Steel Project Ltd.
135. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.
136. North Eastern Handicrafts & Handloom Dev. Corporation Ltd.
137. Oil and Natural Gas Commission.
138. Oil India Ltd.
139. Praga Tools Ltd.
140. Projects & Development India Ltd.
141. Projects & Equipment Corporation of India Ltd.
142. Pyrites, Phosphates & Chemicals Ltd.
143. Rail India Technical & Economic Services Ltd.
144. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.
145. Reshtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.
146. Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd.
147. Richardson & Cruddas (1972) Ltd.
148. Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd.
149. Scooters India Ltd.
150. Semi Conductor Complex Ltd.
151. Sponge Iron India Ltd.
152. State Farms Corporation of India Ltd.
153. State Trading Corporation of India
154. Steel Authority of India Ltd.
155. Tannery & Footwear Corporation of India Ltd.
156. Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.
157. Telecommunication Consultants India Ltd.
158. Trade Fair Authority of India
159. Triveni Structurals Ltd.
160. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.
161. Uranium Corporation of India Ltd.
162. Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd.
163. Western Coalfields Ltd.
164. Hindustan Prefab Ltd.
165. Banarhat Tea Co. Ltd.

166. Rajgarh Tea Co. Ltd.
167. Murphulani (Assam) Tea Co. Ltd.
168. The Mim Tea Co. Ltd.
169. Hoolungooree Tea Co. Ltd.
170. Rajasthan Electoronica & Instrumments Ltd.
171. IISCO Ujjain Pipe & Foundry Co. Ltd.
172. The Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
173. Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.
174. North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd.
175. Rajasthan Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
176. Hoogly Printing Co. Ltd.
177. Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.
178. National Handloom Dev. Corporation Ltd.
179. Paradeep Steel Project Ltd.
180. Paradeep Phosphates Ltd.
181. Uttar Pradesh Drugs & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

List of enterprises which are in the process of adoption of Model CDA Rules.

1. Bharat Process & Mechanical Engineers Ltd.
2. Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
3. British India Corporation Ltd.
4. Brushware Ltd.
5. Cardamon Trading Corporation Ltd.
6. Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.
7. Educational Consultants India Ltd.
8. Gas Authority of India Ltd.
9. Goa Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
10. Hindustan Vegetables Oils Corporation Ltd.
11. Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation Ltd.
12. India Firebricks & Insulation Co. Ltd.
13. Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
14. Maharashtra Antibiotics & Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
15. Mandya Nation Paper Mills Ltd.
16. Mogul Line Ltd.
17. National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd.

18. North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Ltd.
19. Orissa Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.
20. Sambhar Salts Ltd.
21. Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.
22. Smith Stanistreet Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
23. Vijayanagar Steel Ltd.
24. Weighbird India Ltd.
25. Air India
26. Indian Airlines
27. Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.
28. Air India Charters Ltd.
29. Airlines Allied Services Ltd.
30. Bengal Immunity Co. Ltd.
31. International Airports Authority of India Ltd.
32. Punjab Maize Products Ltd.
33. Vayudoot Ltd.

Illegal dollar trade outside Trivandrum Airport

3799. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of the increasing passenger traffic between Trivandrum and Gulf countries, illicit dollar trade is going on in a well-organised way by tourists and agents around the Trivandrum Airport ;

(b) if so, the action taken to stop this illicit dollar trade ; and

(c) whether it has affected the transaction of a nationalised bank situated at Trivandrum Airport ?

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

India edged out in Export Market for engineering goods.

3800. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to news item appearing in the 'Economic Times' of July 22, 1985 stating that China has edged out India in the export market in Africa for engineering goods ;

(b) if so, whether Engineering export Promotion Council has expressed concern over this development ;

(c) whether Government have investigated into the causes of this setback ; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government have taken a series of measures for boosting the export of engineering goods. These, inter-alia, include continuation and strengthening of the International Price Reimbursement Scheme, liberalisation of imports for export production, link deals for exports and lines of credits to some countries.

News-Item Captioned "Bank walon nein croron rupye apas main bant Liye

3801. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bank walon ne croron rupye apas mein bant liye" (crores of rupees distributed by bank employees among themselves) appearing in 'Jansatta' of 3rd June, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the total amount of building detected in Traders' Bank during the last three years, year-wise ;

(c) the directors or ex-directors against whom inquiries have been initiated and the time by which these are likely to be completed ; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to pay back the money of account holders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Government have seen the news item,

(b) to (d) Information to the extent available, is being collected from the Reserve Bank and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New Industries in North Eastern Region

3803. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector enterprises like Hindustan Machine Tools etc. propose to undertake expansion or opening of new units in the North Eastern Region ;

(b) if so, which of the public sector enterprises have located the sites for their new units in the States of North Eastern region ; and

(c) the details in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The details are being collected and a statement will be placed on the Table of the House,

[Translation]

Setting up of Factories in Public Sector in Rajasthan

3804. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Public Sector factories being run in Rajasthan and the number of employees working therein ;

(b) the number of big factories which are proposed to be set up by Government in public sector in Rajasthan during the Seventh Five Year Plan ; and

(c) the action being taken by Government and their future plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring the Central Public Enterprises operating in Rajasthan. There are 31 Central Public Undertakings operating in Rajasthan as on 31.3.1984 and the number of employees working therein as on that date was 0.33 lakhs.

(b) and (c) As the 7th Plan is still under finalisation no details in this regard are available.

[English]

Additional Central Assistance to Maharashtra

3805. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHO-SALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the existing norms laid down for sanction of additional Central assistance for externally aided projects to the State Governments ;

(b) whether there is any request from the State Governments particularly from Government of Maharashtra for enhancement of the Central assistance disbursed for the externally aided projects ; and

(c) if so, to what extent Central Government propose to raise the assistance

from its existing one in view of request of the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) In accordance with the existing guidelines, additional Central assistance upto 70% of aid disbursed on all externally aided projects, as a result of expenditure incurred by the State Governments on such projects from out of their own resources, is released to the State Governments.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No change is contemplated in the existing policy in this regard,

Resources gap in annual plan of States

3806. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the annual plans of each State has revealed a gap in their resource for the annual plans ;

(b) if so, whether in order to cover this gap, Government would allow overdrafts or give any assistance ; and

(c) if not, in what way this is going to be abridged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Annual Plans as approved by the Planning Commission are fully funded.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

Formation of a regional association of shippers organisation in Asia and the Pacific

3807. SHRI K. PRADHANI ; Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for formation of a regional association of shippers' organisation in Asia and the Pacific in the very near future under the auspices of the ESCAP ;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and whether it will cover shipping ports and inland water transport also ;

(c) whether India has decided to join this organisation ; and

(d) how far it will help in finding over the recession which has at present gripped the shipping industry and put an end to tramp shipping atleast in this part of the world ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has recognised the need for the formation of a regional association of National Shippers' Councils for the purpose of promoting regional cooperation among the shippers.

(b) The outline of the association is expected to be discussed at the meeting of Chief Executives of National Shippers' Councils to be held latter this year under the auspices of ESCAP.

(c) India has generally supported the formation of such an association for promoting regional cooperation among the shippers.

(d) The regional association is expected to create a healthy atmosphere conducive to promoting the interests of both shippers shipowners.

[Translation]

Attachment of colliery to bandhav thermal power station (M.P.)

3808. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of continued efforts made from time to time by the Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board no Thermal Power Plant of Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board has been attached to the Singrauli coal belt ;

(b) whether no colliery has so far been attached to Bandhav Thermal Power Station also ;

(c) if so, the reasons for this discrimination ; and

(d) the reasons for not attaching Bandhav Thermal Power Station with any colliery though most of the coal deposits of Singrauli are in the States of Madhya Pradesh itself ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No, Sir. Bandhav Thermal Power Station of Madhya Pradesh State Electricity Boards has been linked to Singrauli coalfield for coal supply from 1994-95.

(b) to (d) The question of linking a specific coal mining project in Singrauli coalfield to Bandhav TPS is under consideration of the Special Linkage Committee (Long Term) of the Department of Coal,

[English]

Timely payment to Coal India Limited by power agencies

3809. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the move to such coal despatches to Power houses has created another problems for coal India Ltd., as it had sought letter of credit from all the power agencies to ensure that it got paid for coal supplies in time;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that initially the letters of credit ensured regular payments but the power agencies have again started defaulting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a), (b) to (c) Agreements have been entered into by Coal India Limited with the State Electricity Boards for coal supplies. The payment clause provides that State Electricity Boards, will keep a deposit covering the value of 10 days supplies and would arrange payment within 7 days from the date of presentation of the bills. All the State Electricity Boards have accepted the payment clause and thus the question of opening of letter of credit does not

arise. Initially the State Electricity Boards became quite regular in making payments and were doing so as per the agreement but started defaulting subsequently. In actual practice some of the State Electricity Boards are not able to adhere to the payment clause as a result of which the outstandings have been going up. The matter for expediting payment is being followed up directly with the State Electricity Boards by the Coal Companies and also at the Government level.

Moratorium on interest burden of sugar mills

3810. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that sugar mills which have in the last three years accumulated an interest burden of nearly Rs. 850 crores on working capital cannot ever get rid of it unless the banks put atleast a two years moratorium on the recovery of the amount;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with the concerned authorities to help the sugar industry to come out of this; and ?

(c) if so, other measures Government proposed to take to help the sugar industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) When cash credit accounts become irregular for long periods for some reasons, the banks defer the adjustment of irregular portion including interest burden and stipulate suitable repayment programme by segregating irregular portion of the cash credit account into a working capital term loan on satisfaction of the following conditions:

- (i) the basic viability of the mill is not in doubt
- (ii) the mill has not diverted funds for other purposes and has been observing good financial discipline.

- (iii) the incurring of cash losses is of a temporary nature and the entrepreneur/management has made efforts to induct fresh funds.

Reserve Bank of India's authorisation is required for sanctioning of a working capital loan. According to RBI, it is not practicable or necessary to put a two year general moratorium on the recovery of the irregular portions as the existing arrangements allow for a deferred recovery on the basis of merits of individual cases. Further the current buoyancy in sugar prices has enhanced the drawing power against stocks held by the sugar mills, thereby reducing the irregular portion automatically.

Role of state financial corporation (industrial) in implementation of projects etc.

3811. SHRI ANANDI CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the role being played by the State Financial Corporations (industrial) in implementation of projects, rationalising the disbursement procedure for accelerating growth/industrial development of States ;

(b) Statewise break up of sanction of loans by these Corporations, number of industries assisted number of small scale industries amongst them during the last two years: and

(c) what steps are being taken to monitor their activities, providing investment subsidies and the targets prescribed by the Industrial Development Bank of India for the current year for such Corporation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) State Financial

Corporations (SFCs) provide financial assistance for the development of artisans, village/cottage industries, tiny and other small scale and medium scale industries etc. so as to achieve regional balance in growth of economic activities, greater employment generation and dispersal of ownership of industrial capital. SFCs also provide assistance on concessional terms for projects in backward areas and also for rehabilitation/modernisation of industrial units against refinance from the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). The steps taken by some of the SFCs to reduce the time lag in disbursement of assistance include elimination of the pre-disbursement inspection of the project for second/subsequent disbursements wherever possible release of interim finance to units against investment subsidies sanctioned but not disbursed, etc.

(b) The readily available information relating to the total number of units, (indicating separately the number of small scale units) assisted by the SFCs and the amount of assistance sanctioned to such units during 1983-84 (April-March) is given in the statement below.

(c) IDBI undertakes a detailed Business Plan and Resources Forecast (BPRF) exercise every year, based on past experience, and with respect to sanctions, disbursements, recovery and the resources needs of the SFCs. IDBI undertakes a mid-term review of the BPRF for each SFC. The investment subsidies are channelised through the SFCs designated as the disbursing agency. As the investment subsidies are made available by the Central State Government, IDBI does not fix any targets in this regard.

Statement

State-wise position of sanction of loans by the SFCs during 1983-84 (April-March) in respect of all units and SSI units

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Sanctions to all units		Sanctions to SSI units	
		No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1631	6235.94	1021	3839.97
2.	Assam	125	210.82	74	67.33
3.	Bihar	559	3367.42	479	2413.09
4.	Delhi	84	629.70	76	441.15
5.	Gujarat	1232	4796.79	1212	3869.06
6.	Haryana	525	1694.42	408	1350.69
7.	Himachal Pradesh	102	795.11	52	402.89
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	788	1222.83	481	532.27
9.	Karnataka	2551	21044.61	1874	3573.64
10.	Kerala	250	8.11	184	356.84
11.	Madhya Pradesh	433	2996.29	384	2115.18
12.	Maharashtra	1987	3247.24	1571	2664.12
13.	Orissa	2970	5075.75	2403	3204.72
14.	Punjab	417	2243.14	376	1230.66
15.	Rajasthan	4228	3878.45	3395	1941.73
16.	Tamil Nadu	3113	5306.42	2003	3534.85
17.	Uttar Pradesh	4252	4519.49	4203	3847.79
18.	West Bengal	1290	2176.20	1207	1788.60

Extension of minimum wages act to Handloom workers

3812. SHRI C. SAMBU : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to bring Handloom Weavers under Minimum Wages Act;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to construct sheds for Handlooms, so that Handloom workers hitherto exploited by Master weavers can be brought under organised labour; and

(c) whether there is also any proposal to purchase, by opening "Purchase Centres" the 12 items manufactured by Handloom Weavers under the new Handloom Weavers Act, directly by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH):

(a) Under the Minimum Wages Act 1948, the State Governments are the "appropriate Governments" for fixing minimum wages for employment in handloom industry. Some State Governments have already fixed/revised minimum wages for the handloom industry under the Act.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The new Act, mentioned in the question, presumably refers to "The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985". This Act seeks to reserve certain items for exclusive production by the handloom sector and not for purchase from the Handloom sector.

[English]

12.00

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr Speaker, Sir, I think this will be taken seriously by you and the entire House. For long we have tolerated traitors in Kashmir. On 14th of this month Pakistani flags were unfurled all over the Valley and even in the Kashmir University Pakistan flag was unfurled.

MR. SPEAKER : I will get the information and then see to it.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, 60 people have been arrested. What action is the Government going to take ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will take notice of it.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Sir, I would like the hon. Home Minister to make a statement. It is a most serious thing.

MR. SPEAKER : I will take notice of it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, Mr. Brian, the Canadian Prime Minister has committed... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It has come to me. I will look into it and get facts.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It is a breach of inter-Governmental Protocol.

MR. SPEAKER : I will find the facts, then I will come.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It has appeared in the Canadian paper ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, what has happened to my privilege notice ?

MR. SPEAKER : I have got the answer. We will see to it. And if any further action is to be taken then we will contemplate. You will first see it and if there is any discrepancy, then we will come.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, what has happened to my request ?

MR. SPEAKER : I will get the facts and then come to it.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : What about the Pakistani elements ?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : We must denounce those elements.
(Interruptions)

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : On 13th August, 1985, Prof. Madhu Dandavate gave notice of a question of privilege against the Minister of Finance and Commerce, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh, for allegedly making policy announcements outside the House on 10th August, 1985, regarding steps to boost exports in response to demands by representatives of trade and industry at an open House discussion.

The Minister of Finance in his comments has *Inter-alia* stated that : "Open House discussions have no fixed agenda and representatives of industry and trade are free to raise any points that they deem appropriate. Commerce Minister thereafter responds to some of the points raised during the discussions. This is not a forum for making policy announcements. This is a forum primarily for taking administrative decisions which can be taken on the spot." He has also stated that the announcements made by him were either within the framework of existing policies or dealt with on-going schemes or related to purely administrative and procedural matters

within the competence of various authorities.

It is well-established that no privilege of the House is involved if statements on matters of public interest are not first made in the House. It is, however, a matter of propriety that when the House is in session, so far as possible, important decisions should first be announced in the House. It for some reason, like the House not being sitting on that date and important development taking place between the sittings of the House and necessitating a public announcement, earliest opportunity should be taken to bring the whole matter to the notice of the House.

I feel that in the present case (1) No breach of privilege of the House is involved. (2) It would have, however, been more appropriate if the relevant announcements were first made in the House. This was particularly important because these involved financial implications. (3) In any case earliest opportunity should have been taken to inform the House fully in regard to these matters.

I would urge the Hon. Ministers to take care that these aspects are kept in view in future.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : May I say a word. It will require quite a bit of time if we bring these changes before the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Don't challenge the direction of the Speaker.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : In am only submitting to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : I am only on financial implications—statements which have some financial implications.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We have made it clear that there will be no additional financial implication on that. That was made very clear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Submissions are not allowed on the Speaker's ruling.

Now, Mr. Chavan

RE : STATEMENT ON ASSAM ACCORD

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I rise on a point of order. Before the hon. Home Minister makes a statement, regarding Assam first let me make it clear that I am not going into the merits of the case. I welcome the steps that they have taken and the statement that is likely to be made.

I only wish to bring to your notice, Sir, that the entire text of this Memorandum of Settlement has appeared in the Press,—apart from the announcement that was made in the Red Fort, because, there he only made the statement that an accord had been arrived at. But pursuant to that, the full text has appeared. And, I do not think that this House can be taken so lightly. And, I want to point out to you—I had given the dates—that Mr. Feroze Gandhi had raised that issue on 1st of May, 1959 in this House.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got it. I have gone through it; you have given to me in writing.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Let me complete the sentence. On 1st of May, 1959, Mr. Feroze Gandhi had got the issue settled on the Floor of the House by the Speaker that whatever be the situation, it is always better that when the House is in session, important policy pronouncement must come before the House. And therefore I only request the Home Minister that in future this should be avoided and I request you to see that the dignity of the House is maintained. This is not a ritual. This is the right of the House, and the dignity of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : I only have to add this—because, he has not raised as a matter of privilege—he has just pointed

out certain things. But this was a very special case. I was there at the Red Fort function yesterday. At 2-45 A.M. the agreement was reached. And it was a very good sort of news for the whole nation. And I think the Prime Minister would have failed in his duty to report to the supreme body, that is, the whole nation :

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am talking about the Memorandum.

MR. SPEAKER : I am doing that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Please do not misunderstand. I am not referring to the announcement at the Red Fort but what has happened subsequent to that :

MR. SPEAKER : I have also gathered that this was not released by the Government. I have ascertained from the Home Minister that it was not released. The full text was not released by the Government. And, if it had been done, then, I would have taken notice of that :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : How did the Press get the full text ?

MR. SPEAKER : There are other parties also. That is what it is

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I would like to know whether the text which has appeared in the Press is authentic.

MR. SPEAKER : There are other parties also. No problem.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : On a point of order :

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question of point of order, Please take your seat. It is a national thing. Certain things are so good that they should be announced.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I only want to point out to you that whatever ruling you have given in relation to Finance Minister is different from the ruling that you propose to give in regard to...

MR. SPEAKER : No, no, I am not differentiating. I am only differentiating between the circumstances. Not at all.

STATEMENT RE : ASSAM ACCORD

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : Sir, as the House is aware the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on Independence Day announced that a settlement had been reached on the issues of Assam in the early hours of 15th of August.

This happy accord represents the fulfilment of the assurance given by the Prime Minister in his broadcast to the nation on 5th of January, 1985 that "earnest efforts will be made to settle the foreigners' issue in Assam and that the give-and-take of the Conference Table can yield victories which confrontation cannot."

The AASU, through their memorandum dated 2nd February 1980, presented to the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, conveyed their profound sense of apprehensions regarding the continuing influx of foreign nationals into Assam and the fear about adverse effects upon the political, social, cultural and economic life of the State.

Being fully alive to the genuine apprehensions of the people of Assam, the then Prime Minister initiated the dialogue with AASU and AAGSP. Subsequently, talks were held at the Prime Minister's and Home Minister's levels during the period 1980-83. Several rounds of informal talks were held during 1984. Formal discussions were resumed in March, 1985.

4. Keeping all aspects of the problem including constitutional and legal provisions, international agreements, national commitments and humanitarian considerations, it has been decided to proceed as follows :—

Foreigners Issue

- 5.1 For purposes of detection and deletion of foreigners, 1.1.1966 shall be the base date and year.
- 5.2 All persons who came to Assam prior to 1.1.1966, including those amongst them whose names appeared on the electoral rolls used in 1967 elections, shall be regularised.
- 5.3 Foreigners who came to Assam after 1.1.1966 (inclusive) and upto 24th March 1971 shall be detected in accordance with the provisions of the Foreigners Act 1946 and the Foreign (Tribunals) Order 1964.
- 5.4 Names of foreigners so detected will be deleted from the electoral rolls in force. Such persons will be required to register themselves before the Registration Officers of the respective districts in accordance with the provisions of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, and the Registration of Foreigners Rules, 1939.
- 5.5 For this purpose, Government of India will undertake suitable strengthening of the governmental machinery.
- 5.6 On the expiry of a period of ten years following the date of detection, the names of such persons which have been deleted from the electoral rolls shall be restored.
- 5.7 All persons who were expelled earlier, but have since re-entered illegally into Assam, shall be expelled.
- 5.8 Foreigners who came to Assam, on or after March 25, 1971, shall continue to be detected, deleted and expelled in accordance with law. Immediate and practical steps shall be taken to expel such foreigners.
- 5.9 The Government will give due consideration to certain difficulties

expressed by the AASU/AAGSP regarding the implementation of the Illegal Migrants (Determination by Tribunals) Act, 1983.

Safeguards and Economic Development :

6. Constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, as may be appropriate, shall be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people.

The Government take this opportunity to renew their commitment for the speedy all round economic development of Assam, so as to improve the standard of living of the people. Special emphasis will be placed on education and science & technology through establishment of national institutions.

Other Issues :

- 8.1 The Government will arrange for the issue of citizenship certificates in future only by the authorities of the Central Government
- 8.2 Specific complaints that may be made by the AASU/AAGSP about irregular issuance of Indian Citizenship Certificate (ICC) will be looked into.
- 9.1 The international border shall be made secure against future infiltration by erection of physical barriers like wall, barbed wire fencing and other obstacles at appropriate places.

Patrolling by security forces on land and riverine routes all along the international border shall be adequately intensified. In order to further strengthen the security arrangements, to prevent effectively future infiltration, an adequate number of check posts shall be set up.
- 9.2 Besides the arrangements mentioned above and keeping in view

security considerations, a road all along the international border shall be constructed so as to facilitate patrolling by security forces. Land between border and the road would be kept free of human habitation, wherever possible. Riverine patrolling along the international border would be intensified. All effective measures would be adopted to prevent infiltrators crossing or attempting to cross the international border.

10. It will be ensured that relevant laws for prevention of encroachment of government lands and lands in tribal belts and blocks are strictly enforced and unauthorised encroachers evicted as laid down under such laws.
11. It will be ensured that the relevant law restricting acquisition of immovable property by foreigners in Assam is strictly enforced.
12. It will be ensured that Birth and Death Registers are duly maintained.

Restoration of Normalcy :

13. The All Assam Students Union (AASU) and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) call off the agitation, assure full cooperation and dedicate themselves towards the development of the country.
14. The Central and the State Government have agree to :—
 - (a) Review with sympathy and withdraw cases of disciplinary action taken against employees in the context of the agitation and to ensure that there is no victimization;
 - (b) Frame a scheme for ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of those who were killed in the course of agitation.

- (c) Give sympathetic consideration to proposal for relaxation of upper age limit for employment in public service in Assam, having regard to the exceptional situation that prevailed in holding of academic and competitive examinations etc., in the context of agitation in Assam.
- (d) Undertake review of detention cases, if any, as well as cases against persons charged with criminal offences in connection with the agitation, except those charged with commission of heinous offences.
- (e) Consider withdrawal of prohibitory orders/notifications in force, if any.

15. The Ministry of Home Affairs will be the nodal Ministry for the implementation of the above."

This has been signed by Shri Prafulla Mohanty, President of All Assam Students Union, Shri B.K. Phukan, General Secretary, All Assam Students Union and Shri Biraj Sharma, Convener of All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad and Shri R.D. Pradhan, Home Secretary, Government of India and Shrimati P. Trivedi, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam in the presence of the Prime Minister. Sir, I also lay on the Table of the House the Memorandum of Settlement.

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA (Bankura):
Sir, I want one clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : It can be taken up latter on. Not now. You can come to me. Give me notice and we can discuss.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN : Sir, I have further to add.

I would also like to inform the House about two other relevant matters.

Firstly, the AASU and AAGSP have strongly represented about the electoral

rolls currently being prepared. The Government have agreed to the following :

(a) The Election Commission will be requested to ensure preparation of fair electoral rolls.

(b) Time for settlement of claims and objections to be extended by 30 days, subject to this being consistent with the election rules.

(c) The Election Commission will be requested to send Central observers.

Secondly, in order to accelerate the industrial and educational development, the Government of India have agreed :

(a) to establish an oil refinery Assam. Government will render all possible assistance in terms of institutional and bank finance to facilitate the establishment of a refinery in the private sector;

(b) the Central Government will render full assistance to the state Government in their efforts to re-open Ashoka Paper Mill and Jute Mills; and

(c) An IIT will be set up in Assam.

I am confident that this House will share our hope that this settlement will usher in an era of harmony, goodwill and prosperity for the people of Assam. I take this opportunity to make a fervent appeal to all sections of the people of Assam and also Members of this House to cooperate in bringing about normalcy and goodwill and also in implementing the provisions of this Settlement.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : On behalf of my Party, Telugu Desam, I congratulate the young Prime Minister. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEV ACHARIA : One clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : You can give me another notice for that. You can give notice for discussion under Rule 193, but not at the moment.

(Interruptions.)

MR. SPEAKER : Not now.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, we are happy that the Settlement has been reached. We are also happy that the Prime Minister thought it fit to consult the Opposition leaders 15 minutes before the statement is made here. I feel that this consultation process should not become a ritual. In future, consultation must go on along with the negotiation.

MR. SPEAKER : It might not be possible...

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : I would like to answer that, The idea was not to consult the Opposition after the agreement was signed. It was to inform the Opposition before we laid the Memorandum of settlement on the Table of the House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : What is the problem? What is your point of order, Mr. Jaipal Reddy.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the text of the Memorandum of Settlement announced by the Home Minister is very clear. It is the same as had appeared in all the newspapers...

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said that, it is not from the Government. There are other parties also

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Jaipal Reddy, it does not matter.

Why are you getting agitated about it? Sit down.

There is nothing to be agitated about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, he came to Assam after.

MR. SPEAKER : Discussion not now. Nothing to be discussed now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You know the Rules. Please sit down.

Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906 :—

12.20 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Annual Report and Review of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited for the year 1983-84. Statement showing reasons for the delay in laying the Papers on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLIES AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited, Shillong, for the year 1983-84.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited Shillong, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT/1323/85]

Notification under sub-Section (3) of Section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following

- (1) The Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of the commemorative coin of 25 paise containing copper 75 per cent and nickel 25 per cent coined for "Forestry for Development") Rules, 1985 published in Notification No. S.O. 3083 in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1985.
- (2) S O. 2502 published in Gazette of India dated the 8th June, 1985 rescinding Notification No. S.O. 1904 published in Gazette of India dated the 16th June, 1984. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1324/85]

Annual Report and Review of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay for the year 1983-84. Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the above papers on the Table

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—
 - (i) Review by the Government on the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited-Bombay, for the year 1983-84.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-1325/85]

ASSENT TO BILL

[English]

Punjab Appropriation (No. 3) Bill

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Punjab Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1985, passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 24th July, 1985.

12.22 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

[English]

Tenth Report

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixty-First Report of the Committee (7th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Education and Culture—Elementary Education.

12.23 hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

[English]

Third, Eighth, Ninth and Eleventh Reports

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool) : Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee :—

- (1) Third Report on Action Taken on 191st Report of Public Accounts Committee (7th Lok Sabha) regarding Expansion of Vijayawada Trunk Automatic Exchange, Arrears of Telephone Revenue and Excess billing, STD barring and telephone complaints.

- (2) Eighth Report on Action Taken on 159th Report of Public Accounts Committee (7th Lok Sabha) regarding Customs Receipts.

- (3) Ninth Report on Action Taken on 17—170th Report of Public Accounts Committee (7th Lok Sabha) regarding Union Excise Duties.

- (4) Eleventh Report on Action Taken 171st Report of Public Accounts Committee (to 7th Lok Sabha) regarding Council of Scientific and Industrial Research—Engineering Service Group.

12.24 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED
TRIBES

[English]

First Report

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifty-first Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs—Socio-Economic Conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Union Territory of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.

12.24 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS

[English]

First Report

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sitzings of the House.

12.24 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the remaining part of the Session will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from to day's Order Paper.
2. Consideration and passing of :
 - (a) The Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Amendment Bill, 1985.
 - (b) The Government Savings Laws (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (c) The Intelligence Organisations (Restriction of Rights) Bill, 1985.
 - (d) The Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (e) The Judicial Officers Protection (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (f) The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Bill, 1985.
 - (g) The Indira Gandhi National Open University Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (h) The Pondicherry University Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (i) The Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Bill, 1985, as passed by Rajya Sabha.
3. Discussion under Rule 193 regarding Racial Priots in South Africa

affecting the people of Indian Origin at 5.00 P.M. on Monday, the 19th August, 1985.

4. Discussion under Rule 193 regarding the statement made by the Minister of Finance on 23rd July, 1985, about the Report of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy on "Aspects of black economy in India".

12.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, I would like the following subjects to be included in the business of the House for the next week.

Due to the timely decision of the Government of India, the Crop Insurance Scheme has been introduced by the Government of India and by few of the State Governments. But this Scheme is not applicable to all the crops grown in the country. The Scheme is applicable only for the cereal crops. Foreign exchange earners like apple, mango, coconut, banana, pineapple grapes and crops like groundnut, jute, cotton, sugarcane and cash crops like betel leaves, tea etc. are not coming under the purview of this scheme with the result millions of farmers all over the country are sustaining heavy losses. Besides, the country is losing huge amount of foreign exchange. This very important matter needs to be discussed.

2. Transportation by railways is the main source of transport for millions of passengers and millions of tonnes of goods in the country. But it is very shocking and unfortunate, too, that the Railways have no plan for gauge conversion in the 7th Plan. It is further a matter of regret that even though the Railway have taken for conversion 1606 KM of MG Railway lines to BG Railway lines in the 6th Plan period, not a single Kilometre of NG railway line was taken for conversion into BG. As per norms of the railways, this conversion is based on certain conditions. Out of many NG lines, there are some such

NG lines which are fulfilling all such norms and conditions. One such remunerative NG line is Rupsa-Bangiriposhi in Kharagpur Division of SE Railway. After its conversion and few kilometres extension to connect Howrah Bombay BG line near Chakulia, the distance will be reduced substantially by 180 KM and the time by 6 hours. This important subject of NG conversion, therefore, need to be included in the business of the next week.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I want the following two items to be included in the next week's business :—

It appears that the Government is going in for a major policy decision in regard to the public sector undertakings on the basis of the report of Dr. Arjun Sengupta.

Dr. Arjun Sengupta Committee was appointed by the erstwhile Government, and it is understood that Dr. Sengupta has submitted its report to the Government. But most surprisingly till now the Government has kept the report as a guarded secret and the Members of Parliament have been in total darkness about the contents of the report although the newspapers have come out with news about some of the recommendations of the Committee.

From whatever has been published in the newspapers and through other sources, it appears that the Government is going to take many decisions which will seriously jeopardise the interest of the public sector workers as well as the functioning of the public sector units. One of the recommendations of the Committee to replace the practice of bipartite negotiation in different public sector industries by wage Boards is of extremely retrograde nature which will do away with collective bargaining and do serious harm to the interest of the workers. In fact, the trade unions have already protested against the recommendations of the report.

This is a very serious matter. The Government should immediately place the report of Dr. Sengupta before Parliament

and provide opportunity to the Members to discuss it, and at the same time Government should consult the Central Trade Unions also before it is acted upon.

The British Airways has decided to withdraw its weekly Tristar flight to Calcutta from December 1, 1985. The flight will be redeployed to serve Bombay.

At present, the British Airways operates seven flights to Delhi, six to Bombay and one to Calcutta.

The decision to withdraw from Calcutta was surprising as well as abrupt. It is not that business in Calcutta is not good, but the British Airways is after a booming demand elsewhere.

It is understood that the income of the Airways has increased more than two-fold as compared with last year.

In view of this, I would like to request the Union Government to look into the matter and persuade the British Airways to desist from their earlier decision in the interest of the public.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would submit to you that the following important item be included in the next week's business :—

The Jammu & Kashmir State Government is planning to pass on about 200 Tourist Bungalows and Huts to the private sector and offer the same to the Taj Group of Hotels and other agencies. These Bungalows, constructed by the Tourism Development and Tourism Development Corporation over the past two decades, are now being given out to private agencies on a long lease of 60—90 years. The Government's intention to sanction the lease was communicated to the Managing Director, Tourism, and the Director of Tourism of the State through a letter dated the 9th August, 1985. This lease will cover all attractive Tourist Bungalows in Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Chashma-shahi and Sonamarg.

The people of the State have raised objection to this sort of deal as it will

mean that genuine public welfare activity cannot be undertaken by the Government. This will also jeopardize the future of about 4,000 employees of the Tourism Department and Tourism Development Corporation who have already started a State-wide agitation.

The people of the State feel that new areas like Lolab Valley, Bangas Valley, Wuller Lake, Hapat Nullah, Boniyar, Bosian Valley of Baramulla and the Kbag Hills can be offered for lease if the intentions were to develop tourism in Jammu & Kashmir State. Since funds come from the Central Government, it should take notice of this development. I want this matter to be discussed next week, so that the Central Government pays attention to this matter.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : I submit the following urgent matter to be included in the next week's Government business.

In last week's Government business,

In last week's heavy floods in Orissa many people and domestic animals have lost their lives and crop covering an estimated area of 4 lakh hectares had been damaged in 98 blocks in seven districts of the State. The 80 blocks covered about 5000 villages in the districts of Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Keonjhar, Rolangir, Sambalpur and Koraput. The floods had caused 156 breaches in the embankments of rivers.

In Nayagarh subdivision of Puri district flood waters of Mahanadi, Kuanria, Kusumi, Dahuka and Lunijhara rivers have severely affected many areas in Daspalla, Gania, Nayagarh, Nuagan, Khandapada and Bhapur Blocks and about 20 villages in Khunda block and 22 villages in Kanas Block in Puri district still remain submerged in the flood waters of Daya and Rajua rivers.

I urge upon the Government to include this heavy flood damages in Orissa in next week's business so that a Central team immediately visits the affected areas with a view to rushing Government help to the nearly 4 lakhs distressed people.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the statement given by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the following subjects should be taken for discussion along with other subjects :

1. Bhoal is the only capital where there is neither the High Court and nor its Bench. The States were reorganised in 1956 and since then there has been a consistent demand for the establishment of a High Court Bench in Bhopal. In 1976 all the formalities were completed for the establishment of a bench but due to change of Government the matter was deferred. In 1983, this matter also was referred to Jaswant Singh Commission although the case is so sound that no further arguments were called for. The Commission submitted its report two months ago. The Government should take a decision for the establishment of a Bench in Bhopal at the earliest.

2. The aim of the Protection of the Forests Act of 1980 is to prevent the illegal felling of trees. It can never be the aim of the Act to defer the construction works of the schemes undertaken in public interest for an indefinite period. Today work on many schemes like irrigation schemes, road construction, work on the expansion of power are at a stand still because the sanction has not been accorded by the Centre for a long time. The extraction work of stones is closed because the mines are situated in the forest area. For example, under the Kolar scheme, which is being executed with the assistance of the World Bank, the work on the construction of the dam has not been taken up this year because even after two years, approval has not been received from the Centre.

[English]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Sir, the following item may please be included in the next week business.

I want to draw the attention of the House towards the news item that appeared in various newspapers and journals about

the miserable financial condition of veteran freedom fighter and former Prime Minister Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda.

It has been mentioned in the news item that Shri Gulzari Lal Nanda has no source of income except pension amount of Rupees Five hundred a month. With the tremendous price increase of essential commodities it is difficult for him to maintain even one servant. Since payment could not be made to his servant, he had to remove his servant. And at this pretty old age, one time former Prime Minister Shri Nanda is facing tremendous hardship. He has to wash his clothes, clean his rooms, prepare his food and also for purchasing vegetables, atta and ghee etc. he has to go himself.

In view of the above, all honourable members of this august House will agree with me that Government must do something to help veteran freedom fighter and former Prime Minister who is passing through a difficult period during the evening of his life. I, therefore, request the Government that Shri Nanda's pension may be raised so that he gets minimum Rs. 2000/- per month.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Sir, the following subjects may be included in the agenda for the week beginning from 19.8.85.

1. Following an agreement between the Governments of Rajasthan and Gujarat on the use of Malvi river in 1966, 419 feet high Kahana dam was constructed. The water of that dam fed by Mahi river was utilized for irrigating the district of Khera of Gujarat State. There was a condition in the said agreement that after the award of the tribunal about the Narbada river, district Khera would be irrigated by the Narbada water and the water of the river Mahi would be released for irrigation in the upper areas of Gujarat and the worst drought prone areas of Barmer and Jalore of Rajasthan through Kahana Canal. The Gujarat Government is not abiding by the agreement. This urgent issue should, therefore, be referred to the National

Council of water Resources as per the recommendation of the National Development Council. The Prime Minister should take special interest in it so that the dispute could be settled at the earliest. Thereafter active steps should be taken in making the water of Mahi river available in the desert district of Barmer and Jalore so that the region could be irrigated.

2. A number of States in the country are facing acute power crisis. The power crisis in Rajasthan State is most acute. The first unit of the Atomic Power Station, Kota was commissioned for some days after having remained closed for about three years. Now it is again lying closed. The other units remain closed for 15 days in a month.

Rajasthan is not getting its full share from the Satpura Thermal Plant. The Singrauli Super Thermal Plant is also not supplying to the State its full share.

The Planning Commission has not still granted clearance to the Palana Lignite Plant in the desert areas. The Project report for Kapoordi Lignite Plant has not been prepared to-date. The gas based unit of Ramgarh Thermal Plant is progressing at a slow speed. The cut in power supply to the industries is being made regularly. The electricity is supplied to the farmers for four hours in a day. The implementation of urban and rural water supply schemes for potable water is uncertain due to power crisis.

It is, therefore, submitted that the power problem of the country and particularly of Rajasthan may be included in the agenda for discussion in the House.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : I submit that the following matter may please be included in the business for next week.

Orissa is richly endowed with tourist potential in her fascinating beaches, beautiful forests, rich in wild life and famous places of pilgrimage, all kinds of topics, flora and fauna including many medicinal

[Shri Somnathrath]

plants. But it is a matter of regret that the tourist potential in Orissa has not been developed upto the expectation in the absence of adequate assistance of the Government of India. The development of Orissa's tourist potential is necessary in the interest of the country as a whole. This will open up the flow of international business and foreign exchange to the country. I would, therefore, request the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation to take up the following measures immediately in order to give a boost to Tourism in Orissa.

1. Banaras, Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar and Port Blair are on the Tourist map of India and as such Boeing link should be provided daily between Delhi and Port Blair via Banaras, Khajuraho and Bhubaneswar. This will also reduce congestion at Calcutta airport.
2. Boeing link should be provided between Calcutta and Madras via Bhubaneswar in order to facilitate foreign tourists.
3. Bhubaneswar should be linked by middle level air service (Vayudoot) daily with places like Rourkela, Jharasguda, Behrampur, Jey-pore and Joshipur.
4. Bhubaneswar air port should be expanded.
5. Flood lighting system should be introduced at selected archaeological monuments of the State.
6. Ropeway should be provided between Khandagiri and Udayagiri.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah): I would like the following matters to be taken up for discussion in the next week:—

1. The preparation for the next Asian Games in Seoul and the coaching programmes for the next Olympic Games in Seoul have not yet started in any sports disciplines in our country.

By this time all the experts and important foreign coaches have already been engaged by other countries and India will be in great difficulty to provide superior coaching specially in the field of Hockey, Football, Swimming, Shooting and Volley Ball.

It is a fact that the Sports Ministry has taken initiative to consult various Federations in this regard but the House and the people are unaware about the outcome of it. So the matter needs to be discussed in the House.

2. The film industry in West Bengal has been facing severe crisis for the last few years after the sudden death of their matinee idol, Uttam Kumar, both in terms of box office and production. Nevertheless a few talented and upcoming directors and producers courageously took up some ventures and found success. Yet the overall position has not yet improved.

NFDC should have a definite programme to promote the West Bengal film industry and the film Finance Corporation should have a flexible attitude in terms of sanctioning loans and the projects for West Bengal film industry that badly needs attention by way of modern equipment, technology, colour processing, can era work and modern studio arrangements.

A discussion about the entire film industry of India is necessary to find out the imbalances as well as for necessary support to the respective centres for marketing, exhibition and distribution. A Film Finance Authority can be instituted.

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the following matter be included in the next week's business.

Due to heavy rains in Punjab, about 30 thousand cusecs of water is flowing

in to Pakistan from Heerke barrage. The Indira Gandhi Canal of the Rajasthan State or the Bhakra System Canals have no water in them. The paddy crop in the Ghagra river area is withering. Even in such a period the officers are releasing less water. The Indira Gandhi Canal is drawing about 7,000 cusecs of water at present whereas its capacity is 18,000 cusecs. If more water is released from Punjab in the canal then the project area and the crops of the Ghagra river area can be saved from being destroyed. Similarly, if Punjab gets more water from the canals of Bhakra then the crops of this area can be saved from destruction.

I, therefore, request the Government of India and the hon. Minister for Irrigation that the water which is flowing into Pakistan should be released in the canals of Rajasthan.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I will put all the points raised by the hon. Members before the Business Advisory Committee for their consideration.

12.40 hrs

TERRORIST AFFECTED AREAS (SPECIAL COURTS) AMENDMENT BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The house will now take up item No. 11 of the agenda.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1984.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Terrorist Affected Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1984.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.41hrs

ESSENTIAL SERVICES MAINTENANCE (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, be taken into consideration.”

As the House is aware, the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981 was brought on the Statute Book as part of a major effort to keep the wheels of production moving and with the object of ensuring uninterrupted maintenance of essential services so essential for national security and defence as well as for the economy. I would like to recall the circumstances which necessitated the enactment of this law. In 1980-81 there were certain disquieting trends on the Labour front affecting the maintenance of essential services in some vital sectors of the economy. The locomen agitation and the prolonged agitation by public sector workers in Bangalore were illustrative of such trends. The labour situation which was marked by increasing violence brought matters to a head. It was considered necessary that if disruption of the normal life of the community was to be avoided and if production essential for national security and

[Shri Arif Mohammad Khan]

defence as well as for the economy was to continue, discipline and operational efficiency had to be maintained in all essential services. The Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance, 1981 was accordingly promulgated on the 26th July, 1981 to secure these objectives. The Ordinance was replaced by the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, which has a wider compass than the Ordinance, in as much as it empowers the Central Government to prohibit not only strikes, but also lock-outs and lay-offs in essential services.

When the legislation was being discussed in Parliament, Government had made it clear that the objective was to create a healthy climate in which production would increase at a faster rate and essential services would be maintained without any disruption. It was also reiterated in Parliament that the powers available to the Central Government would be used with great care and caution and only after Government is convinced that, if the great powers are not exercised, the situation would deteriorate and grave hardship would be inflicted on the people. In the course of the last four years of the working of the Ordinance/Act, Central Government have invoked the powers under the Act only on 30 (Thirty) occasions to issue orders prohibiting strikes in essential services or to extend the period of operation of such orders prohibiting strikes. These orders were issued to meet grave situations such as those arising out of call for Assam Bandh, strike by Maharashtra State Electricity Board Engineers and threat of strike by employees of Food Corporation of India, Central Warehousing Corporation, Coal India Limited, Mathura Oil Refinery, AIR and Doordarshan, CPWD (connected with public conservancy, sanitation, water & power supply in Delhi), Security Paper Mill, Hoshangabad, International Airports Authority of India, etc. One very such occasion when an order under the Act was issued, there was full consultation with the Ministry of Labour. As the Hon'ble Members would appreciate, the powers under the Act have been used very sparingly and only to meet situations in which non-exercise of the powers under the Act would have resulted in serious consequences and hardships to the community.

The Act is to expire on the 22nd September, 1985. We have examined the question of extending the life of the Act beyond that date in great details in consultation with the various Ministries and Departments of the Government of India and the State Governments and U.T. Administrations. There is a general consensus to extend the Act beyond 22nd September, 1985. Ministries and Departments which employ a large number of industrial workers and other staff such as Railways, Posts and Telegraphs, Defence, Finance (Banking Division) Shipping & Transport, Chemicals and Fertilisers, Petroleum, Steel, Food, etc., have strongly recommended the extension of the Act.

A number of State Governments have also favoured the extension of the Act. Government is also convinced that although the industrial relations climate at present is relatively better than what it was four years ago, there should be no let-up in the effort to keep the wheels of production moving faster in the interest of national security and defence and for the growth of the economy. The Bill, therefore, seeks to extend the life of the Act by five years.

I hope that in the light of what I have stated, the House will give support to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That the Bill to amend the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, be taken into consideration.”

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA
(Bankura) : I beg to move :

“That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th September, 1985”.

“That the Bill further to amend Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 15 members, 10 from this House, namely :—

- (1) Shri Ajoy Biswas
- (2) Shri S.B. Chavan

- (3) Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary
- (4) Prof. Madhu Dandavate
- (5) Shri Indrajit Gupta
- (6) Smt. Geeta Mukherjee
- (7) Shri C. Madhav Reddy
- (8) Shri Ajit-Kumar Saha
- (9) Shri K.P. Unnikrishnan; and
- (10) Shri Basudeb Acharia

and 5 from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the 15th September, 1985;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 5 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA
(Tamluk) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to amend the Essential Services Maintenance Act, 1981, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 12 members, namely : —

- (1) Shri Basudeb Acharia
- (2) Shri Ajoy Biswas
- (3) Shri S B. Chavan
- (4) Shri R.P. Das
- (5) Shri Amal Datta
- (6) Shri Indrajit Gupta
- (7) Shri Matilal Hansda
- (8) Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal
- (9) Shri Amar Roypradhan
- (10) Shri Ajit Kumar Saha

(11) Shri Zainal Abadin; and

(12) Shri Satyagopal Mishra

with instructions to report by the 15th September, 1985."

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before 1980, the Essential Services Maintenance Act was not in vogue, but for about 30 years of our independence, in 1950, we took over all these organisations like the Railways, Postal Services, Communications and other organisations. In early independence days, labour conditions had not deteriorated, the standard of living was not much. But after 25 years of independence, the standard of living has improved a lot and the general price level has improved a lot. But the wages and other facilities which we are providing to the employees have not improved accordingly. So, the labourers working in different organisations, where their working conditions were good for 25 years, have become worse and that is the reason why there have been agitations throughout the country. From 1980 onwards, the employees in the public undertakings like ECIL, HMT, HAL, etc. have been going on strike sometimes for 77 days for non-acceptance of their just demands. But the Govt never thought of solving the problems of the industrial labour. On the other hand, in 1980 the Essential Services Maintenance Act was passed which intended to curb the rights of the industrial labour. This legislation gives massive powers in the hands of the Government. The Minister has informed us that during the last four years of the working of the Act, the Government had invoked the powers under this Act on thirty occasions. During these four years, how much improvement have you got on the management side? What were the improvements that were brought about during this period by prohibiting the labour from resorting to strikes etc. in organisations like Hindustan Machine Tools, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Electronics Corporation of India and so on? Although the employees have been restrained from resorting to agitation, the management are not paying proper attention to their grievances and they are doing all sorts of things. They have never tried to put an end to their irregularities

[Dr. G. Vijaya Rama Rao]

or plug their loopholes. If you have a look at the working of certain organisations, you will see that though the employees are not going on strike, the organisations are running into losses. Why is that so? For example, the Lamp Division of the Hindustan Machine Tools at Hyderabad and other units of the Hindustan Machine Tools are running at losses. When the employees are not going on strike, why is it happening ?

I feel this measure is purely an anti-labour, anti-democratic measure and it is against the Fundamental Rights of the individual. This Act is intended to cover the Government's own incompetence, inefficiency and utter failure of the Government to manage the economy of the country. This is to curb the Fundamental Rights of the working class. How much industrial peace and growth of production in the country have you been able to achieve in the last four years ?

As I said, this is an example of authoritarian rule of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, it is a pure and simple attack on the rights of the working class. I plead with the Government to withdraw this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, any patriot and a sensible person will definitely support the Essential Services (Amendment) Bill because the security of the country and the production in the country are very important today. In addition, I would suggest to Government to make an in depth study of our past history of industrial relations, because so far as the private sector is concerned, the history of the last 38 years of the country bears testimony to the fact that profit has been their chief motive. The private sector has never thought of the interest of the country or of the production. All their steps were motivated by profit only. So far as the Public Sector is concerned, the hon. Minister has given a number of instances. I have heard all these and it seems that he is much concerned about the public sector.

Sir, the biggest drawback in the public sector is that it lacks a committed cadre.

In the public sector, officers, who have committed a number of irregularities, occupy important positions. It results in the spread of discontentment among other persons,

For example, in BHEL, Bhopal persons, who had committed a number of irregularities, are occupying important positions and are running the management at their whims. This results in resentment in the lower staff. They have their grievances. There are rules framed for the whole of BHEL but in practice these rules are flouted. There is a rule that artisans grade III would be promoted within five years but the management is not prepared to give them promotion even after five years. The management has conceded that there are anomalies in pay but they are not prepared to rectify them. Such things create resentment and Government should redress it.

We have taken a good step by amending the law regarding Bonus in the last Session. Earlier, the ceiling for bonus was Rs. 750 which was raised to Rs. 1600. Now employees drawing salary upto Rs. 1600 will get bonus. At that time the labour Minister had agreed that the limit of Rs. 1600 in the Bonus Act would be increased. But no amending Bill has been brought forward till now. You should at least look to these things. You must also intervene in labour disputes.

You will find that in all the labour disputes, the verdict was always in favour of the labour. If the management concedes the justified demands of the labour, then such disputes would never arise. Such situations arise only when the management becomes recalcitrant.

When we have brought forward this Bill, we will have to look to our working and the old labour relations. Our Labour department helps in bringing about reconciliation but it is not empowered by law to force the management to implement the agreement. We will have to see this point also.

I would like to submit that we will have to build up a committed cadre so that such a situation does not arise. The labour is in favour of raising the output in the country as well as making the country

strong. But we should not allow such a situation to arise where the labour are not permitted to ventilate their grievances.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salempur) : Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for introducing the Essential Services (Amendment) Bill, because this step is essential in the present circumstances.

I am speaking on this Bill because I came to know from the press reports that the leaders of the opposition parties had opposed the Bill tooth and nail at the introduction stage.

It is a matter of surprise how it was opposed by the Members for whom the word 'strike' is anathema. When they are not in power, they organise strikes and when they are in power, they put a ban on it. Is it not a fact? If this is not true then I would like to know from my friends how many strikes are taking place in China and Russia? In those countries there is dictatorship only.

I know that my arguments are hurting you; that is why you are feeling agitated I have risen to reply especially to such persons.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can continue afterwards. We will adjourn for lunch to re-assemble at 2.00 P.M.

13.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.06 hrs.

[**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER** *in the chair*]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was expressing my views on the amending Bill which seeks to amend the Essential Services Maintenance Act and when I was speaking, my arguments were hurting one of my communist friends from amongst the opposition

parties. I could not understand why it had happened, but he was feeling very much agitated. I agree that Opposition Members are there to oppose our stand, but I was very much surprised to see my young friend opposing our stand in a very peculiar manner. I fail to understand which History he has read. His age must be less than 50 years and he said that the worker of the country was better off under the British rule. I do not know which University he had attended. I am referring to the young member from the opposition who was the first to speak on the Bill. I am very much surprised at the competence of the opposition which opposes everything said on behalf of the ruling party? If any member of the ruling Party says that sun rises in the East, the Members of the Opposition parties would say that sun rises in the West. Who would not be surprised to listen to such arguments?

At the outset I had expressed my thanks to the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill and at that time, our colleagues had laughed. But it is a fact that such a rule is the need of the hour for the country. No strike should be permitted in all the Essential services of the country. I would like to ask my communist friends if they support strikes in any communist country...

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHAUDHARY : In there starvation in any country?

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : With a cool mind you consider this issue and find out if any person in India is dying of starvation. We are proud of our country. Our country is a very vast country. When there was famine in Bengal during the British rule, almost three million people had died there and you did not utter a word at that time. The country is same even today and I challenge all the leaders of the opposition parties to tell if anybody is dying of starvation. Not even a single person has died of starvation in such a vast country.

Therefore, it is essential to have such a law in our country these days. You may take the case of Electricity Department. When

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

the employees or Engineers of the Electricity Department go on strike, who is affected by the strike it is the farmer who is affected. Whenever there is strike in the Railways and the Post and Telegraph Department, who is affected, it is the farmer again, who is affected. Whenever there is the time for irrigation, the farmer does not get the facilities, because there is strike in the concerned Department. I would like to submit to my colleagues of the opposition parties that they should look towards farmers also, and they should keep the interest of workers and the villagers also in mind. Lengthy speeches are made by you in the name of farmers and workers, but have you ever thought about the plight of the workers living in the villages. He hardly gets work for three months in a year, but you never raised your voice in this regard. Where do you raise your voice? You raise your voice at a mill gate and hurl abuses at the managers and the Government, you also incite workers and the workers think that their leader is very good who is adept in hurling abuses. We have seen many labour leaders who on the one hand give a call for strike in the Private Sector and on the other hand, break the strike in collusion with the mill owners. I know many such leaders and I have seen them myself. If you like, I can tell you the names of the leaders as well as that of the factory in which strike was resorted to for 10 days .. They used to inform the manager that the workers are not working properly and on the other hand they would tell the workers that the manager is working against their interests. This is their character. They always play a double game. I would like to submit to you Sir, that for the sake of the country, they should not at least play workers against the management and vice versa.

Sir, these people used to say that workers would usher in a revolution. We have seen that neither have workers brought about revolution, nor can they bring about it. Jai Prakashji had given the slogan that the youth would bring about revolution. Sir, that slogan also failed and even the youth could not bring about revolution. Sir, I would like to submit that neither the workers, nor the youth

can bring about revolution. The revolution can be brought about by the middle class and the farmers. But what is his condition today? You should pay your attention to ameliorate their condition. What is the condition of the people living in the countryside. You should pay your attention towards them.

Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there should never be any strike. It would be better for the country, because strikes destroy the economy of our country. But we have also to consider ways and means to safeguard the interests of the workers properly. There are courts for this purpose and judges have been appointed to attend to this work. It is also good that right of appeal to higher courts has been given against the judgements of lower courts.

Sir, this has also been provided in the Bill that no mill-owners in the private sector can close the mill at will. Sir, our colleagues in the Opposition should at least appreciate this measure. Our colleagues from the opposition should, at least, appreciate the good measures of our Government, but they do not appreciate even good measures. Sir, I would, therefore, support this measure that the energy of the country should not be wasted unnecessarily by resorting to strikes.

Sir, this law remained in force for three or four years in our country, which has yielded good results. You are already aware who is ruling in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka ...*(Interruptions)*...Sir, these people give a call for strike even when they are in power. You know what type of people these persons are. We are aware of their activities during the second world war. Sir, if these people had their way, they would reverse the entire order and turn the East into West. When the second world war was going on and Russia was with the allies, they had said that war was unjustified, but when it parted ways, these people had said that war was justified. Sir, these people are unpredictable. Sir, that is why I was requesting the hon. Minister that the rights of the workers should also be protected. Our colleagues from the Opposition had expressed apprehensions that the industrialists in the

private sector might take advantage of this restriction. This should not be allowed to happen. Otherwise also, our friends of the Opposition want that everything should be handed over to the private sector. But I would like to submit that such a situation has not developed so far. We have not reached such a stage. There is no such feeling among us even now. The feeling of patriotism has not been inculcated among us properly. Now the feeling of patriotism is being inculcated among us. So far it has been our motto that one should work less and get more. But now gradually this feeling is also being instilled among us that we should work more and get less. This feeling of patriotism is being instilled gradually among us.

Due to lack of this feeling the public sector has been incurring a huge loss so far. All our undertakings in the Public Sector are running at a loss. The units under the Public Sector are incurring loss to the tune of billions of rupees, because this feeling has not been instilled properly among us that we should take care of public property as our own property. I would, therefore, like to put forward this suggestion that workers should also be made shareholders of the company. Secondly, I would also like to suggest that a rule should be framed for all the Public Sector Units that in case of any loss in the Public Sector Undertakings, it should be made good from the salaries of the workers and if the unit is making profit, the workers should be paid bonus.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very happy with the hon Minister for bringing forward this Bill. It was high time for bringing forward such a Bill and he has introduced it at an appropriate time. I would, therefore, request all of you as also my colleagues from the Opposition that they should support this Bill unanimously and get it passed.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):

I rise to oppose this draconian piece of legislation. At the introduction stage also we vehemently opposed the amending Bill which seeks to extend the period of

Essential Services Maintenance Act for a further period of five years. We opposed it on the ground that this will take away the Fundamental Rights of the workers. We created a history in this House in the year 1981 when the original Bill was being considered and passed. We opposed that Bill clause by clause. Now the Government is claiming that in order to maintain essential services it is necessary to extend the period for 5 years more though in the original Act it was for four years. Did the Act succeed in achieving the objective? I would like to give you some figures which will show that during these four years this objective could not be achieved and the Government could not stop workers from going on strike.

In the year 1983 the loss due to strikes and lock-outs was of the order of Rs. 247.72 crores and Rs. 164.68 crores respectively. In 1984 it was Rs. 140.18 crores and Rs. 78.38 crores. The loss of mandays in the year 1981 when this black and draconian Bill was passed by Parliament, was 36.58 million in 1982 33.21 million 1983, 25.05 million and in 1984 40.47 million. So even after getting that Bill passed by parliament the Government could not stop workers from going on strike.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA : Do these figures relate to strikes in essential services only or total?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Total.

Government has also claimed that the industrial situation has much improved. If that is so, then what is the necessity of extending the period of this Act which takes away the fundamental rights of the workers? This Bill virtually supersedes the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947. Section 12 of the Act says that the provision of the Act and any order issued thereunder shall have the effect notwithstanding anything in consistent with the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 or any other law being enforced. But the Home Minister has stated that this Bill would not affect Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. At the time of introducing the Bill, the Home Minister had said that the Maintenance of essential Services Act, the National security Act and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention)

[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

Act were not meant for trade union activities. This is what was said by the hon. Minister at that time. The National Security Act was passed in the year 1980 and in the year 1981 the locomen went on strike. Why did they go on strike? There was an agreement arrived at between the Government and the locomen, and that agreement was announced in this very house by the then Railway Minister. The agreement was to reduce their duty hours to ten. This agreement was reached between the Loco Running Staff Association and the Government of India in the year 1973 but had not been implemented till 1981. So, they were forced to go on strike. Though it was said a number of times that the National Security Act would not be used against the workers and against the trade unionists, but this Act was actually used against the railwaymen. Thousands of railwaymen were arrested and put behind the bars without trials. Thousands of workers were discharged and dismissed, and still they are languishing. What are the powers that the Government wants to seek now, and which is not there in the Industrial Disputes Act? This Bill gives the Government power to declare any industry as 'essential' and to ban strike in any unit of that industry. Now, what does the Industrial Disputes Act say? Section 22 of the Industrial Disputes Act says on page 24 :

"No person employed in a public utility service shall go on strike in breach of contract—

- (a) without giving to the employer notice of strike, as hereinafter provided, within six weeks before striking; or
 - (b) within fourteen days of giving such notice; or
-"

So, that power is there in the Industrial Disputes Act. The Government can use the Essential Services Maintenance Act for the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947. They can declare any industry as a 'public utility service' and can ban a strike in that industry. What is the use of bringing this

Draconian Bill which takes away the fundamental rights of the workers?

What is there in the Act? When a worker goes on strike in an essential service, what will be the punishment? The punishment can range from one month to six months. And for instigation to strike, the punishment will be from six months to one year. For giving financial assistance also it will vary from six months to one year. Apart from imprisonment the person also faces dismissal. So, you are depriving a worker of his right and also depriving him and his family of its bread. That is a double punishment which is there in the Essential Services Maintenance Act.

The Government of India is a party to several conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation. May I ask has the Government any right with its brute majority in Parliament to bring in a law which goes against the conventions and recommendations of the ILO to which it is a party?

The collective bargaining means to settle disputes and avert strike. And if it fails, then workers go on strike. Strike is not a fun. When a worker goes on strike, he will have to starve. We have seen in the Railwaymen's historic strike for 22 days in 1974 thousands of workers were thrown out of employment. They were dismissed, discharged and put behind bars. So, strike is not a fun. The workers are forced to go on strike when other avenues fail. When the collective bargaining fails, they go on strike.

You imposed Essential Services Maintenance Act on Coal India Limited in 1983. What happened there? There was an agreement with all the trade unions, including the INTUC, with the Coal India Limited. The agreement was signed by both the trade unions and the Coal India Limited Management. But after signing of the Agreement, the management of the Coal India Limited refused to implement the Agreement before the ink of the Agreement had dried. When this Agreement which was signed was not honoured and that it was not implemented, the workers of the Coal India Limited were forced

to go on strike for three days in spite of the opposition from the INTUC. Ninety-five per cent of the workers of the Coal India Limited went on strike.

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY : I think it is wrong to say that the strike was convened after the signing of the Agreement. Secondly I would like to know from him which convention of the ILO has been violated.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I am not yielding. You will say the management was forced to implement the Agreement.
(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I would request the Member to sit down.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why is this measure being extended? Why does the Government now want to extend this black and draconian Bill in spite of its claim of improvement in the industrial situation and labour relations?

You have imposed a blanket ban on recruitment for 15 months. Three crores of unemployed youth are in the live registers of employment exchanges. They are just roaming in the streets in search of employment. You have announced a new textile policy, a new electronic policy, a new export policy. What is the use? The more you announce your new policies, the more grows unemployment. What is the new import policy which you announced? In the name of import liberalisation you have opened the doors of our country to foreigners. You are importing coins from foreign countries. You can't cope with the requirements of our own country. Therefore you import coins from foreign country. What is your new textile policy? It will only lead to more unemployment. More modernisation means more unemployment. You want to bring in computers; you want to bring in sophisticated machines and automation. The machines and computers will reduce the job potentialities. We are not opposed to these, because in a country like ours where 3 crores of unemployed youth are there waiting to get employment, where there are 13 crores of agricultural labourers who get only 100

days employment in a year, you want to instal computers rendering thousands of workers jobless. This is the situation.

In coal India Limited, within 3 or 4 years, 50,000 workers were thrown out of employment. Most of them were women. The workers are agitating. The workers are resisting. The employees of Hong Kong Bank of Calcutta are agitating. They are resisting the installation of computers in their offices. In the LIC the employees resisted the installation of computers in their offices. That is why you are afraid and you want to extend this black and draconian law in order to stifle the voice of the workers. In this respect you have never succeeded; and I am sure you will never succeed. The textile workers of Bombay went on a strike which lasted for 1-1/2 years and they showed their determination. So, I request the Home Minister kindly to withdraw the Bill.

With these words I oppose this black Bill, Draconian Bill, Anti-democratic Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Essential Service (Amendment) Bill, 1985 introduced in the House. In 1981 also, this Essential Services Bill was introduced and the House had passed it with a majority vote. That Bill took the form of an Act. Now again, the same Bill with the same sections has been introduced to extend its period for another five years, and I support it.

The view expressed by the members particularly those belonging to the Opposition, stress. The point that it is an assault on the fundamental rights of the workers. It is a fact that this Bill strikes at the fundamental rights of the workers, but if any force is an impediment in the nation's progress, country's security, national production and our economy, such forces cannot be tolerated in a democracy (*Interruptions*)

This question is also linked with the mill owners. This law is also applicable to

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

those who declare lock-outs in their factories and close them down. It is not that this law is only for the workers (*Interruptions*). Therefore, this Bill has been introduced with the objective of achieving progress in the country. To achieve national progress, our economy needs to be strengthened. The way strike continued for a long time in the Textile Industry in Bombay-I think it ran for 18 months-it hinders production in the country. Hinderance in production in the country severely affects our economy (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : When Government is elected through ballot, why the same cannot be done in the case of a Union (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : It is essential to have strict provisions for the maintenance of essential services. It is very essential to enact a legislation which could deal with the forces which particularly strike at our economy, our Defence, our security. When the departments like drinking water, electricity and R.E.C. stop working, it causes a huge loss, (*Interruptions*). What I mean to say is that government have to enact such legislations to deal with such circumstances. If the drinking water department stops working, action becomes necessary. As things stand now, at present the situation is that even the Bank officers, who get highest pay, have started resorting to strike. You support their activities. I want to repeat that if anybody gets the highest salary today. It is the Bank employees and officers.

AN HON. MEMBER : Tata and Birla.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : We are not in favour of the capitalists, we are not in favour of this type of capitalism, we are in favour of socialism (*Interruptions*). We want to phase out capitalism gradually and we are heading towards socialism for which we are striving. We have take steps for nationalisation of a number of industries and similar steps will be taken wherever necessary in future also. We have

nationalised in the past: the industries connected with the people's life and would continue to do so in the future as well. What I mean to say is that this legislation is a must for the maintenance of the essential services and I support the views expressed by government in this regard. If necessary, such a step should be taken for the country's progress, for the progress of the society and for the economy of the nation even if it hurts somebody's ideology or rights.

With these words, I support this Bill.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAK-TAWAT (Chittorgarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the essential Services Amendment Bill, 1985. The conditions in 1981, when this legislation was enacted for the first time, were such that our economy had become weak due to strikes and mismanagement and compelled by the circumstances at that time, we had provided that this law would remain in-force for four years. Even now, there has been no substantial change in the situation and it has become necessary to extend the period of this Bill for another five years.

I would also like to say that just now our colleague Shri Basudeb Acharia has termed this as a draconian piece of legislation. I want to submit to him that on the one hand he talks of rising prices and inflation in the country's and on the other hand he is opposing this Bill. In fact, inflation and country's production are deeply inter-connected. If there are strikes, if disorder spreads in the industries, then the production will certainly go down and if the production is less than the demand, the prices are bound to go up and inflation in the country will increase. Therefore, with a view to asserting the inflation and to check the disruption of our economy due to strikes, it had become essential to amend this Act. The people have started misusing the path of civil disobedience shown by Mahatma Gandhi. If people remove the word civil and take to disobedience only it would lead to chaos. Today, there is no field which is free from strikes. This infection has spread among Doctors, Railway employees and all other fields. I

would like to give here a brief account of the loss suffered during the Janata Party rule, when your government was in power. In 1978-79, when your party was in power, the country suffered a loss of Rs. 285.32 crores and Rs 445.02. Under such circumstances, amendment to this law was not only necessary but it had become imperative also. Therefore, I heartily thank the hon. Minister and Government for their wisdom.

Sir, politics should not be dragged into labour and management. As a result of political interference, extremists enter into it. Your just imagine what would have been our position, had these strikes continued in our essential services. You have before you an example of strike in the Railways. You are also aware of what happened in the textile industry. When employees engaged in essential services, electricity, water, medical, airways—all go on strike, it directly affects the people in the country.

Therefore, it is a wise step. There are some elements which went to force strike on the workers. There is no dearth of such 'Goondas' and 'Dadas' who forcibly enter the labour movement. The workers, who do not want to go on strike are forced to do so through threats and coercion. Therefore, I would submit that keeping in view the economic constraints and inflation in the country, this legislation is a must and the opposition parties should also think over it.

Shri Basudeb Acharia has also spoken about assault on the fundamental rights and has said that this is an anti labour law. To this I want to say that our Government has always stood for the workers and it has never ignored them. I want to substantiate it by giving an example. May I know who had first thought in terms of workers' participation in management? It was our Government. And which Government first thought of solving disputes through arbitration? It was this Government which did it. The idea of fixing minimum wages for the labour was also mooted by this Government. I would also say that the Employees Health Insurance and Medical Scheme

have also been initiated by this Government. Therefore, to say that our Government do not think of the workers is wrong. I would say that you should correct this statement of yours.

I would also like to say that if your labour organisations and trade union organisations have the good of the country, the development of the country, the inflation in their mind, then certainly they should have changed their attitude, but they did not do so nor do they intend to and it was because of this that Government had no option but to extend the period. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that we welcome this Bill from the core of our heart. At the same time I would like to give certain suggestions. Firstly, you will have to pay special attention to protect the interests of the private sector labour. A labour cell should be set up in your Ministry where their grievances can be heard and redressed without delay.

Secondly, the Central and State Governments should constitute Labour Advisory Boards and reconstitute the existing ones which should look to their difficulties and ensure better wages to them.

Thirdly, the labour courts and tribunals are there but their procedure is so lengthy and time consuming that the labourers get fed up with it after a long wait. Therefore, my third suggestion is that these tribunals and labour courts need to be reorganised so that the workers may get cheap and speedy justice.

I appreciate the vision exhibited by the hon. Minister and with these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, we had opposed this Bill at the introduction stage also. And in response to our contention, at that time, the Home Minister had also been pleased to make some observations. Our real opposition to the extension of this Act is that it is a completely one sided Bill. The bill is loaded completely against the workers and I do not propose to enter into a theoretical argument with some of my friends on the

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

other side of the House, on the philosophy of strikes, whether strikes are good or bad and so on.

Then frequent references are made to the question as to why strikes are not allowed in China or Russia. It is a question of what sort of socio-economic society we have and in which we are functioning.

I have spoken to some Members of the Congress Party who have recently been in various delegations to visit China. Many delegations are going nowadays in which so many Congress Members have also been there and all of them have admitted—I do not know if they will admit it publicly but certainly in private talks they admit very much here—that while they have found in China many things which they do not like, but they have to admit some things which they have seen there. They have seen there that a provision exists there for equality of opportunity for all working people. They have also seen there that prices are being very strictly controlled. The fact is that there is no great gap between the rich and the poor as we have in our country. There are no big capitalists and monopolists like Tatas and Birlas and so on on the one side and millions of people below the poverty line on the other side. These things do not exist there. You have to admit this. But the same conditions exist in other socialist countries also.

The other day somebody on the other side of the House was saying that in the Soviet Union which has been visited by many Members of the ruling party, including Members of the Government, they found that prices of essential commodities, foodstuffs and all that there have been held practically at the same level at which they were some 25 years ago. There is no rise. There is no runaway inflation there. There is no black marketing there. There is no unemployment in those countries. Factories in those countries are not lying closed simply because some employer decided to close them down. These things just do not exist there.

Therefore, these questions are quite irrelevant as to why strikes are not taking place in those countries. Somebody is alleging that strikes are suppressed there. In those countries, there is no need to strike. But, workers have grievances even there. Why not? Workers can have many grievances. But the point is nothing there can be done without the approval of the trade unions which function in that society. The trade unions occupy a strategic place there. Nobody can be dismissed in factory without the approval of the trade union.

Can you imagine such a thing in this capitalistic society either here or in any other capitalist country?

The conditions in the two types of countries are completely different. There is no use comparing like that.

What kind of industrial relations do you want to create through this Bill? You are now entering upon the Seventh Five Year Plan and talking so much about a new industrial set up, modernisation, technology, the need for workers to acquire higher skills and the need for them to learn how to master new types of machines which are going to boost production in the country. It remains to be seen whether that happens or not.

In conformity with that kind of set up, what kind of industrial relations structure do you want to have in this country? Is it to be based on proper recognition of the trade unions and proper collective bargaining rights for them or is it to be an industrial relations system which is to be based essentially on threats against the workers? If they stop work or if they go on strike for any demand or grievance, then a draconian repressive law will be used against them.

The other day I think the Home Minister also made a reference to the National Security Act which had been passed in 1980. An assurance was given in the house that it will not be used against trade unions and that it was meant only for such people or such forces who seriously threaten the security of the State,

But I may remind the Members what we have said many times in this House that in spite of those assurances, this National Security Act has been used, not once, but several times, to lock up trade unionists and to put them behind the bars, without any evidence or any proof or any charge which has remotely got anything to do with the security of the State.

I may remind the hon. Member again and the hon. Minister, of Mr. A.K. Roy who used to sit over there in the previous House and who was elected from Dhanbad After the National Security Act was passed, the first victim was Mr. A. K. Roy, Member of the Lok Sabha, who was detained under NSA and locked up and after some period of time, the Government was forced to release him because there was no possible charge on which he could be kept under detention. And when he returned from detention, Mr. A.K. Roy stood up in this House and made the counter charge against the Government that he was locked up because some people there in Dhanbad wanted him to be out of the way while certain municipal elections were being held and his presence there and participation in the elections was uncomfortable for them. So, they got him locked up under the National Security Act What has that got to do with security, may I know ?

I can give the example of the trade union leader here in Ghaziabad near Delhi, not far away from here, by name Mr. Sukhbir Tyagi...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAMODAR PANDEY (Hazari-bagh) : He was defeated in the elections... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Pandey, please sit down. I will give you an opportunity to speak. Mr. Indrajit Gupta, please carry on.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I can give another example of the trade union leader by name Mr. Sukhbir Tyagi here in Ghaziabad and that was because in that particular factory there was discontent among the workers and agitation was going on ; there was a dispute with the private sector

employer. There are so much hand-in-glove dealings between employers and the local administration, the local police, the local officials. They just go and complain to them and get the trade union leader removed by getting him locked up under the national Security Act. A few weeks ago I had written a letter to Mr. Chavan, to which unfortunately I never got a reply. Generally he replies, But I never got a reply about the case of Mr. Micheal D'Souza in Bombay, General Secretary of the Tara oil Mills and Allied Workers' Union. It was also a factory belonging to the Tatas. There was a prolonged dispute going on with the workers. Negotiations had failed and the company did not want this union leader to be there to take a strong attitude on behalf of the workers, and one fine morning Mr. Michael D'Souza, who is himself an employee of the factory and the General Secretary of the Union, was arrested under the National Security Act, detained and taken off to the Nasik Jail and locked up there with the whole lot of ordinary criminals ; after two or three months, he was quietly released without any explanation, any charge-sheet. So, please do not say that this type of legislations are not used to suppress trade union activities or democratic movements, for that matter. They are. And we do not believe this type of assurances which are given in the House because, after all, these Acts are implemented by local officials, by the police, by the local magistrates and such other people. Here in this Bill itself, in the ESMA, power is given to any police officer. The words used are "any police officer". Section 10 of this Act says that any police officer can arrest without warrant anybody whom he considers—whom the police officer, considers—to be guilty of an offence under this Act. These are monstrous powers given to these people.

There is a definition in section 2 (b) which says that 'strike', for the purposes of this Act, includes also refusal to work overtime. I have never heard of this anywhere in the country. There may be justified reasons why workers in particular cases do not want to work overtime. If they work overtime, they get double the wages. So, in their own interest, the workers want to work overtime so that

[Shri Indrajit Gupta]

they can get double the wages. But if there is a particular instance where, for some reason, the workers do not want to work overtime—sometimes very unjustifiably a long overtime is imposed on them—that also will come under the mischief of 'strike' under this ESMA. Then he is liable to dismissal from his job, he is liable to imprisonment, he is liable to fine. This is the thing. This is a kind of Act which is meant to terrorise and intimidate the workers into submitting to the wishes of the employers...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please try to conclude.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : If you ring the bell like this, what can I do ?

This will be extended for five years, and within five years we will not be able to do anything. Of course, we will go on strike, no doubt, because this intimidation of, or threat to, the workers is never going to let them down. If there is a justified reason for going on strike, then you cannot prevent it; you cannot prevent strikes by showing them the *danda*. There are dozens of cases during the last four years which have proved this.

15.00 hrs.

Constant references are being made to the Bombay strike. A Member here referred to the Bombay Textile Strike. I was not leading that strike, some other Member was leading it. But it went on for one and a half years. Why could not you suppress it by using this Act against them. You cannot do it. So many strikes are taking place by State Government employees. They are going on for months together. It happened in U.P., it happened in Bihar, Gujarat and in so many other places. Gujarat is a different matter, it is a political issue which I am not in support of. But these State Government employees certainly come in the purview of this Act. It does not prevent them.

Sir, I am not wanting to prolong my remark. My original question is : what is

your outlook in the 7th Plan towards the organised workers ? Are you seeking their cooperation by some new industrial relations system in which they feel that they are also partners ? You are talking about their participation in management. You want them to feel—at least in the public sector—that they are partners. But this Bill is meant to apply mainly to the public sector. Railway, Transport, Aerodroms, Ports, Defence, Foodgrains, Sanitation, Water Supply, Hospital, Banking, Coal, Power, Steel, Fertilizers, Oil, Petroleum, Mint and Security Press are some of the undertakings or establishments which are defined in this Act. Most of them are in the public sector. You don't have this much confidence on yourselves that you can enlist the cooperation of these workers in the public sector even without resorting to this act of Draconian measures against them. I am afraid, the outlook for the 7th Plan as far as the industrial relations are concerned, is very bleak indeed. If you are going to allow the inflation and prices of essential commodities to go up, and people are going to be displaced from their jobs due to this rationalisation measures, computerisation, new technology and all that being brought in adding to a whole volume of unemployment which already exists in the country then people are not going to take these things lying down. They have to fight for their rights, their right to jobs, their right to wages and if the Government tries to suppress them by this kind of legislation I am afraid it is not going to work. What will happen will be that you will alienate the working class completely, make them hostile. If you make them hostile, you won't get their cooperation in which they are prepared to give in the public sector. As far as the private sector is concerned that is a different kettle of fish. This Act protects the private employers who have resorted to so many lock outs and closures. The Minister will probably say and quote certain clauses to show that this is meant against lock outs also. I would like to know how many times this has been applied to, 80000 factories are lying closed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We Will now take up the next item.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA ; Then I can continue my speech on the next day. I will take two minutes to conclude my speech on Monday. Thank you.

15.04 hrs.

MOTION RE : FOURTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th August, 1985.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 14th August, 1985”.

The motion was adopted.

15.05 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : DEVELOPMENT OF HILL AREAS *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat on the 2nd August, 1985. Shri Harish Rawat to continue.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : The Minister for Planning is not here Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't worry, you carry on. The Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here, he will look after.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this age of science and technology, the importance of Himalayas as a sentinel might have diminished to some extent, but so far as the question of its effect on the climate of the entire North India and fertility of Ganga-Yamuna plains is concerned, the importance of the Himalayas cannot be underestimated. Today, the Himalayan ranges are becoming sick. We are not paying requisite attention to them. A multi-purpose project needs to be formulated to keep the Himalayas healthy in the interest of not only hills but of the entire North India and the country's economy. I would not like to say that the planners in the country did not do anything or did not think about the development of hills after independence. Such a comment would amount to negating the efforts made by the planners. They thought about it and allocated funds for it also, but the required benefit is not reaching them. What are the reasons for it? In my opinion following are the reasons :

[English]

1. Shortage of resources for the States.
2. Inadequate linkage among various programmes.
3. Lack of perspective planning by the States.
4. Absence of physical monitoring at the field level.

15.06 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the chair*]

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to portray two situations before the House. The first is about a common woman of hill areas who represents the life of 95 per cent women. This woman gets up at 4 O'clock in the morning. She arranges fodder for the

[Shri Harish Rawat]

buffaloes, milches them and prepare meals for herself and the members of her family. She fetches water for the entire family from a distance of 2 kms. After arranging fodder for the cattle she takes the manure on her head to fields which are 3 to 3½ kms. away. She works in the fields also and then returns home carrying grass on her head. She prepares meal for the entire family on smoking *chullahs*. After cleaning utensils she walks a distance of 5 kms in order to bring firewood. After that she pounds paddy in the mortar. After making proper arrangements for the cattle she brings water. After preparing meal for the night she grinds wheat at home for at least one hour.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is not the situation in hill areas only but in all the villages.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Sir, if it is so in all the villages then the hon. Minister and his government should take steps to remedy the situation. This is what I want to submit.

The second illustration is about an average man. After getting up early in the morning he works in the fields, which are scattered over a considerable distance, and completes repair work. Thereafter he walks a distance of 5 kms. to work as a labourer. While returning home in the evening he brings firewood. After that he brings water and helps the woman in the household chores. He is the same person whose 10 years old son has left his school to work in the city. This was the way of life of an average family living in hill areas before independence and it is still the same.

There has been some change both in the positive sides as well as negative side. If roads, schools and hospitals have been brought near, the forests near the village have started receding or almost vanishing. There has been a decline in the average rainfall in the areas which depend on rains for irrigation. Now, he has to trek more distance to bring firewood, fodder, etc. That is why the annual income of a

family living in hill areas and working for 15 to 16 hours a day has increased by merely 10 per cent despite planned development during the last 35 years.

Sir, the hon. Minister is not present here. I request the officers concerned to submit the record of the proceedings to him so that he may be able to know what I have said. I shall feel satisfied. We have not been able to effect an increase of 10 per cent in the average income of a family living in hill areas and working for 15 hours on an average during the last 35 years. Death rate among women has also not come down. A person there gets 25 per cent less calories against the minimum number of calories required for his survival.

The Planning Commission has divided the persons living below the poverty line into three categories. In hill areas, 35 per cent to 38 per cent people come under the third category, i.e. the lowest category.

The economy of hill areas is based on two sources, i.e. agro based industries and remittances. As regards agriculture and agro-industries, even today terraced fields depend on rain, fields are scattered, conventional agricultural implements are used in cultivation, old variety of seeds and old method of sowing are used. No change has taken place in this regard. No concrete efforts have been made to bring any change in it.

I would like to cite an example about the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh. An Agriculture University is functioning there. Two laboratories one belonging to the State Government and the other to the Defence agriculture—are also functioning there. Despite all these things if you ask them whether they have done something to improve the mode of cultivation or to improve the agricultural implements, their reply will be in the negative. If you ask them whether they have made any change in crop rotation, their reply will be in the negative again. So far as increase in per acre production is concerned, I would like to say that in none of the 6 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh per acre production has

increased even by one per cent despite there being three institutions.

Animal husbandry is also linked with agriculture. Even today the cows are very weak and they yield very small quantity of milk. A buffalo there does not give more than 1 kg. milk. Nothing has been done to divert the farmer's aptitude towards poultry, fishing and allied subjects.

So far as horticulture sector is concerned, the condition of orchards raised during the British regime is appalling. The amount of loans advanced to farmers for raising orchards is being recovered from them by selling their lands. If someone has raised orchards, there is no market for his produce like apples and oranges. No government agency is taking any interest. No local industry manufacturing apple jam or orange juice has been developed there for utilising their produce.

Cold storages do not have adequate capacity to store potatoes. As rail heads are at a considerable distance, it is not possible to transport them to market. If he takes them to the market he does not get reasonable price for them. My friend made a mention about the Ramgarh Factory. This factory functions for hardly 10 days in a year and perhaps he knows better than me about the huge losses being suffered by it. If he does not know it, he can ask for the information from the Agriculture Minister of the State Government about the functioning of this factory.

The progress made in Silviculture and Sericulture in the beginning has slowed down.

The conventional tea gardens are also vanishing gradually. Nothing has been done to take care of them.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Planning that a campus of Pantnagar Agricultural University should be set up in Garhwal and Kumaon separately which may study the climatic condition and terrain of these areas and carry out research and development extension work and help in strengthening their agronomy.

Consolidation of any holdings is necessary there. The fields there are scattered so widely that a farmer, howsoever capable he might be, cannot get the requisite yield from that field to meet his needs. Government should make arrangements for houses, diesel, agricultural implements and long term loans to families affected by consolidation of holdings. Government should formulate a comprehensive scheme to promote raising of orchards and tea estates and sericulture and herbs cultivation and arrangements should also be made for their marketing also. There is great scope for cultivating temperate fruit in hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. They can produce fruit in abundance there and there is no dearth of market for them. A very big market can be found in Arab countries and foreign exchange can be earned thereby. But no research arrangements exist in our country to ensure good temperate fruit. I would like to submit that a research institute should be set up for temperate fruit development during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Fruit crop is not covered by the Crop Insurance Scheme. I fail to understand this. Oilseeds have been covered whereas fruits have not been covered by the Scheme. It appears that this has been done because of the absence of a lobby in favour of fruit crop in the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance and due to non realisation of its importance.

In the field of animal husbandry, I.R.D.P., Flood Programme and various Banks have started credit schemes so as to provide facilities to people for poultry farming, sheep breeding, fisheries and maintaining milch cattle of good breed. Besides, marketing facility should also be developed properly. The agronomy of hill areas is linked with forests and forest policy. Poverty is also one of the causes of increase in population.

Our forest policy is not balanced at present. The mountains are gradually denuded of forests and the people believe that Government does not want to protect the ecology of the area, rather it wants the people to preserve it. I would request the hon. Minister to give a thought in this

[Shri Harish Rawat]

direction. The funds that have been allocated for construction of roads in the hill areas have not been properly utilised. The roads that have been constructed are of poor quality and wherever a tree comes in the midst of a road that portion is left. It is almost a patch work. These roads are of no use. No positive steps have taken to protect ecology. As a result, there is great resentment among the people. I have myself seen a bridge of which one of the abutments has been constructed but the other abutment has not been constructed because that land is marked forest land and the prior approval of Central Government is essential. I would like to tell you for your kind information that 75 per cent of hill areas in the country are reserved forests and it has become obligatory for the people to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before starting any construction work in the area. So much so, that people have to obtain the permission of Government of India even for chopping a single branch of the tree which is part of the 'Panchayat forests', raised by them on their own land. I have observed that many times people leave their dead half-burnt in the cremation ground. On the one hand it is said that forests should be protected but we cannot do that at the cost of antagonising the people. Restriction are being imposed in the name of scientific exploitation and as a result thereof the State Government is not accepting timber for commercial use and this practice is not being checked. Afforestation is being done under civil forestry and the pine trees are being planted there. The ratio of other trees *vis-a-vis* pine trees is 1:100. It seems that the objective of afforestation is not meeting the requirements of the local people. The social forestry is being undertaken not to meet the requirements of fuel, fodder, implements or the local industry, but for commercial use and filling the coffers of the States. Instead of mass participation, it is Government participation which is being encouraged. The people are not being involved in this movement. If effective steps are not taken to change the prevailing situation, neither ecology would be preserved nor the interests of local people would be served.

I would request that Forest Conservation Act should not affect in any way the roads, power, irrigation or drinking water schemes that are being run under the Minimum Needs Programme. A long term scheme of social forestry should be undertaken and a law conferring ownership rights of such forests to the people should be enacted and they should be told that forests would remain under their control. If it is done, I can assure you that you will be able to fulfil the target of afforestation.

If I had time, I would have related to you how the history of forests is closely associated with the Independence struggle of the country since 1918. Whenever the Britishers tried to interfere with the rights of the local people regarding forests, the local people opposed the British Government and fought them. Today a feeling has been created among them that the forests will be snatched away from them and it will become Government property. You believe me that Government property is not at all safe; only that property is safe in which the people are interested and which they want to preserve.

Afforestation should be on a scientific basis and the people should be educated about it. The media is not being fully utilised for this purpose at present. Agricultural Research Institutes and Forest Research Institutes should have been opened where the local people could have been educated. They are not being educated so far. This education could be imparted through unofficial centres but it is not being done. While paying attention to this aspect, environmental task forces comprising women and Harijans should be constituted. If this is done, the people will come forward for receiving necessary education and will co-operate in implementing the policies of Government.

I would like to draw your attention to one more point regarding the forests which were till now a source of income for the States in spite of their being in the Concurrent List. Till the loss to the States on account of income from the forests is not made good, you cannot stop the States from felling the forests. I would request you to compensate the loss of revenue

which the State Government would suffer in proportion to the area under forest.

The afforestation and soil conservation programmes should be coordinated with other programmes like the NREP, DPAP and soil conservation catchment area Programme.

The available water and land resources should be utilised in a scientific manner and it should be linked with the social forestry and should be exclusively left in the hands of villagers.

There are various agencies which give funds for river valley projects. Assistance can be sought from the World Bank and other agencies.

Till the alternative sources of energy are not popularised in the hill areas, it will be of no use asking the people not to fell the trees, because no one will agree to it. The people take the plea that if they do not fell the trees how can they light their kitchen fire. So, from this point of view at least, till we do not fully meet the fuel and fodder requirements under social forestry, we shall have to provide alternative sources of energy to them when we are already spending so much money on it. Day before yesterday I had drawn the attention of Minister of Science and Technology and once again I would like to say that a separate agency should be constituted for the Himalayan Region to develop alternative sources of energy.

Until the forests in hill areas are associated with tourism, the people will not appreciate that the forests enhance the beauty of the area and increase their income. They would not be attracted towards afforestation. I would request you to open new tourist promotion Centres in the hill areas in view of the trekking routes and glaciers there. To start with, there is need to identify them.

Besides, I would also request you to maintain coordination between the environment and exploitation of natural resources. There is no dearth of natural resources in the hill areas. There are abundant hydel

resources but they have not been exploited. The three districts of Uttar Pradesh viz., Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttar Kashi can generate enough hydel-power to meet the requirements of the entire State but the hydel capacity has not been fully harnessed so far. Micro hydel projects can be set up at very low cost in the State but during the past five years I have been able to get only one micro-hydel project sanctioned and the work on this project is still in the initial stage... (*Interruptions*)

I had submitted that besides agronomy there is money-order economy in the hill areas which is consumption-oriented and not investment-oriented. And if it has to be made investment-oriented economy, it is essential to develop industries suitable to the ecology in the hill areas. There is need to introduce intensive handloom development schemes. Electronics industry, particularly the assembly units, should be reserved for the hill areas. The KVIC should initiate programmes to encourage local handicrafts. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the existing concessions should be made more practical and rational so that the benefits are not confined to the rail-heads only. The plan for Uttar Pradesh is going to be finalised soon. There are 8 hill districts in the State and certain concessions have been granted for their industrial development. The concessions are—investment subsidy, transport subsidy, 24 hour power supply at low rates. It is of course a good step, but as a result of this the districts like Nainital and Dehradun which are situated at Rail-heads, have developed so much that there is a tussle between Industrial development and agricultural development. If the same concessions and investment subsidy is given to Rail-head districts and to Chamoli or districts which are say 300 kilometres away from the Rail head, no entrepreneur will like to set up any industry there. They will like to set them up at Nainital or Dehradun. Therefore, I request that now as you are finalising the plan for Uttar Pradesh, you should urge the Uttar Pradesh Government that if they want to industrialise all the six hill districts and thus remove the internal regional imbalance, the State Government should raise investment subsidy by 10 to 15 per

[Shri Harish Rawat]

cent for the six hill districts. By doing so the money-order economy can be changed.

There is need to pay more attention to the development of education, rural health, drinking water supply, construction of power houses and cottage industries under the Minimum Needs Programme. The yardstick has been fixed on the basis of the population and the geographical difficulties have not been kept in view. If population-cum-terrain is made the basis, the plains linked with the hill areas are benefited more. This is the reason why there are ten S.A.D.s in every block of Dehradun district while in other hill districts of Uttar Pradesh like, Pithoragarh, the people have to cover a distance of 25 to 30 kms. to get medicines from hospitals. There are no schools. The schools have reached a saturation point. In the district of Nainital roads have also reached a saturation point. One has to walk 30 to 35 kms. on foot to reach his destination. The Ministry should pay attention towards the railway and road development of the hill areas. You have introduced Vayudoot service only in the developed sector and its expansion is taking place there only. It was announced earlier that the far flung hill areas will be linked but nothing is being done in that direction. The hill areas should be provided with helicopter service. Nepal has introduced helicopter service but there is no helicopter service in our area as a result of which the people and the entrepreneurs have to face great hardships there.

I would like to say something about communications. There is need to relax the norms fixed in the field of postal and telecommunication services. There is need to pay attention to the T.V. coverage and radio. In the hill areas it is the area and not the population which should be taken as a base for establishing these facilities. There is need to set up banks and administrative institutions on the same basis.

Sir, with a view to studying and solving the problems of these areas, it is necessary that an autonomous Mountain Research Institute should be established

where scientific study of these problems is undertaken in depth. A comprehensive network of this Institute should be established in the whole region so as to make the use of technology, medicine, engineering, veterinary and agricultural sciences according to the circumstances existing there. A comprehensive plant and resource survey should be undertaken of the entire region through it. Study should be carried out on the needs like energy, food, clothes, houses, cattle and education etc. of the people living there. Similarly, the climatic conditions and the medical requirement of the people should be studied. This Institute should conduct studies about the need to protect and develop the art and culture of the region and work for its promotion in the light of modern technology and science. It should work for the exchange of statistics data collection.

Sir, the States lack resources to undertake the task of solving the tremendous problems of the himalayan region and meeting its needs. It is, therefore, submitted that the Central Government should shoulder the entire burden of the development of the hills. There should be a Department of Mountain Development in every concerned Central Ministry which will have a separate fund reserved for the developmental work in proportion to the area of mountains. The Planning Commission will have to formulate a separate scheme for the hill areas which are part of some State. A member should be nominated in the Planning Commission who may take up the following subjects pertaining to the hill areas like;

[English]

- (a) Micro Level Catchment Oriented Scientific Planning.
- (b) Develop the local resources, proper man-power planning and use of local talent.
- (c) Plan implementation.
- (d) Monitoring and evaluation.
- (e) Benefiting the people as a whole not a status group.

(f) Changing of society from consumption to investment.

(g) Inter region disparities.

[Translation]

And make available resources to fill the gap.

With these words I would request the hon. Members not to view the problems of hill areas in isolation. As I have said earlier the ecological balance and the economy of the whole country is linked with the hill areas. The Planning Commission should, therefore, be urged to make available the money for the hilly areas as per their requirement. With the development of hill areas and preservation of their ecology, the country will march forward.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I beg move.

That in the resolution,—

(i) for “should undertake to bear the entire expenditure” substitute “and the State Government concerned should bear 75 per cent and 25 per cent expenditure respectively”

(ii) in part (a), add at the end—

“particularly in the Prime Minister’s Office”

[Translation]

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Resolution moved by Shri Rawat. He has rightly said that since independence, no attention has been paid towards the development of the hill areas till now. That is why our hill areas have remained backward. They have their own distinct problems which are quite different from the problems of the plains. Unless there is integrated development of all the areas simultaneously, the problem cannot be solved. The British

imperialists neither developed nor allowed to be developed the hill and the border areas deliberately to serve their interests. They treated these innocent hill people living in the hill areas as their “mercenaries”. They used them to maintain their colonial rule and to crush the independence struggle of other countries.

They kept those people segregated from the mainstream of the country and deprived them of the education facilities and the developmental works as well. They did not allow them to make progress. The hill areas, particularly the border hill areas were declared “excluded” or “partially excluded” and were kept segregated. The people of those areas were not allowed to participate in the independence struggle. They were not given chance to make progress and develop.

This is my bitter experience which can never be forgotten. The condition in my constituency Darjeeling and in the neighbouring hill areas is illustrative of the same. The backwardness, illiteracy, shortage of foodgrains, unemployment, non-existence of factories and industries are common feature in the entire north eastern region and the adjacent hill areas. The result is that the people have become frustrated and the reactionary and the secessionist powers are misleading them by taking advantage of the prevailing situation and are posing a danger to the integrity and sovereignty of the country. We have its glaring example before us.

I have already said in the beginning that even after the Britishers left India, Government followed the same policy in regard to the hill and border areas. No special attention has been paid towards their problems. Therefore, if the country is to be made strong and if balanced development in all the areas is to be ensured, it is the need of the hour that you initiate some positive steps. Hon. Rawatji has correctly pointed out that if the Himalayan problems of the hill areas are to be solved then the Central Government will have to come forward and bear the whole expenditure for the development of the hill areas because no State Govern-

[Shri Ananda Pathak]

ment can bear such a huge expenditure. The Central Government provide some amount as grant to the Development Councils of the hill areas but that is not solving the problems. Moreover, it is the responsibility of the Planning Commission of the Central Government to take decision in regard to the quantum of expenditure and in which sector it is to be incurred. But in fact the Planning Commission does not pay attention in which sector and how much amount is to be incurred. In such a way, it becomes difficult to formulate plans for the development in accordance with the geographical circumstances. For example, you take the Darjeeling area. There the grant given for agriculture is much more than the amount provided to the Hill Development Council. But there are hill areas where it is not possible to develop agriculture because the soil there is quite different from that of plains. Laying all the stress on agriculture only will, therefore, be of no use. But you will have to pay attention to the specific problems of that area. The geographical structure of the hill areas is such that extensive cultivation cannot be undertaken. In many areas there are no roads for the movement of vehicles and the people always remain cut off from the rest of the world. The means of development cannot be made available to them. Unless there are roads the people cannot go to the far flung areas. Even if some agricultural development takes place in these regions, the agricultural produce would not reach market in the absence of transport facilities and in this way the farmers will not get reasonable prices for their produce. Facilities like Post and Telegraph, medicines and water are not available in these regions. These areas are inaccessible to outsiders such as engineers, doctors etc. Unless proper arrangement of roads and communications is made, it will not be possible to solve the problem. For the overall development it is the pre condition that roads are constructed and transport system is developed. Our Government will have to pay attention towards it.

The problem of unemployment is assuming serious proportion in the hill areas.

It is necessary that a number of small and cottage industries are established there. Heavy industries cannot be established there because special grant will have to be given for it. With a view to eradicating backwardness of the hill areas, the Central Government should make arrangements for special capital investment for the all round development of those areas so that employment opportunities could increase the unemployment could get the jobs and education could spread.

I would also like to submit that the climate of the hill areas is most suitable for setting up Electronics, watch, Television and Radio assembly units. Special attention should be paid towards this.

Cow and animal husbandry, bee keeping Sericulture and yarn reeling can be done in a very good manner there. Attention should also be paid towards this.

Water is available perennially in fast flowing rivers and springs in those areas. With the help of their water, many Micro and Mini Hydel Projects can be established there which can generate electricity. In this way, people would be able to get electricity and many small and cottage industries could be operated and many other works could also be done.

There is huge potential for development of tea plantations forests, tourism and many other such development works. Attention should also be paid towards this. The upper layer of the soil is being washed away and fertility of the land is being lost. Arrangements should be made to check it.

I hope the Central Government would take note of all these problems of hill areas and would take appropriate steps to solve them.

With these words, I conclude my speech and I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

SHRI SUKH RAM (Mandi): Mr. Chairman, the mover of the Resolution

deserves a word of praise for selecting a subject, which is not only important for the people of the hilly regions but it has got great importance for the people of the rest of the country. The whole House is aware that the Himalayas remained neglected for centuries. It was for the first time that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who was the lover of nature, could know the potential available in the Himalayas. All these potentialities attracted his attention and the development process started after independence. Smt. Indira Gandhi late P.M. also contributed a lot for development of Himalayan States. Before independence the Himalayan were known as the sentinels for the country but there was hardly any development of the Himalayas. Even today lakhs of people living in the interior of the Himalayas do not know about automobiles because those regions they remained inaccessible.

We have been imploring with the Planning Commission that the standards applicable to the plains do not apply to the hill areas. It is a matter of great regret that in spite of our repeated requests the Planning Commission, did not appreciate the problems of the hill areas, with the result that the hill areas still remained backward and they have not been exposed to the modernisation which the other parts of the country are experiencing. That is the reason why agricultural practices in those areas are still primitive and the Planning Commission, on the intervention of the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, created a cell for the hill areas. But the approach remains the same. No doubt, a cell has been created but they have not changed their approach. I would invite the attention of the Planning Commission to appreciate our problems, because, we people of the hill areas have got different problems, and the planning had to be done and should be done according to the needs of the hill areas.

Sir, agriculture is not the first priority in hilly areas and Planning Commission should also keep it as Priority No. 1, as far as the plain areas are concerned.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY : Mr. Chairman, there is not even a single hon. Member on the Opposition side !

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :
Has there been a hijack ?

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : They have no interest in hill areas.

SHRI SUKH RAM : I reiterate that agriculture should be priority No. 1 for the plain areas. Most of our areas are not open due to transport problems and that is why these areas remained very backward. The planners should bear this fact in mind and the other hon. Members also should keep this in mind that there is an organic linkage between the Himalayas and the rest of the country and the financial outlays for the development of the Himalayan States should not be determined on the requirements of those States, but they should be made on the basis of the requirements of the whole nation. Because there are certain problems which are not being experienced only by the hill people but they are being experienced by the rest of the country.

For instance, there has been lot of soil erosion. This problem of soil erosion is not the problem of the hill areas, alone but it is a problem of the rest of the country.

There has been premature siltation in big dams constructed for hydel generation as a result of which there is a decline in the generation of power. It is not only a loss of the hill people but it is a loss to the entire country. I would suggest to the Planning Commission that a comprehensive plan should be prepared for soil conservation in hilly regions. And this expenditure should be borne by the Government of India and by other States which are to be benefited by it.

There have been communication problems in the hilly regions. Due to the absence of roads there, the developmental work could not be taken up with required speed. Moreover, the standards applicable for the plains cannot be applied to the hilly areas. Take, for instance, road construction. It costs Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 10 lakh for one km of road construction in rocky areas whereas Rs. 1 lakh is sufficient

[Shri Sukh Ram]

for the plains. So plan allocation has to be made according to the physical targets. Physical targets should be determined first and thereafter plan allocation should be made.

As regards agriculture, it is not a priority for the hilly areas. Hardly 5 per cent of the total land of hilly areas, particularly, the Himalayan region, is under agriculture. The climatic conditions of the Himalayan region are congenial for cash crops, like seed potato, off-season vegetables, mushrooms, vegetable seeds and so many other cash crops. So preference should be given to the production of cash crops. This will not only benefit the people of the hilly areas but the entire country.

There are natural resources. Not only the people of the hilly region but the rest of the country also can be prosperous if natural resources are exploited properly. The Himalayan States have got a very big potential for generating hydel power. But it is very unfortunate that out of the total power generated so far, the share of the hydel power is hardly one-fourth and the rest is thermal. The hydel power could not be exploited because of two reasons mainly. One is that it is capital intensive and the second is that its gestation period is longer. But the modern technology provides answer to these two problems. In 1980 I attended one international seminar in France. I saw the machinery being used for construction of tunnel which is the major component of a hydel project gets expeditious results as compared to conventional methods. If the period is reduced, then definitely the expenditure can also be reduced. So, there is a big resource which has to be exploited. I will request the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Energy to give more attention towards the exploitation of hydel power which is the cheapest in the world, pollution free and which has got a resource which is inexhaustible. Thermal power, on the other hand, brings pollution and its source is exhaustible. I would say that particularly as far as North India is concerned, we should not think of thermal power, we should exploit the hydel power. I must congratulate our Prime Minister for including the project known

as Nathpa-Jhakhri, in Himachal Pradesh in the Seventh Five Year Plan. This project had been hanging in the balance for about 6-7 years. In answer to one of my questions, I have come to know that it has been included in the Seventh Five Year Plan. I realise the problem of the Government of India, particularly the Energy Ministry, that finance is the biggest constraint. But I think this is such an energy that even if we resort to the internal borrowings, we can get the finances for it. The generation cost of hydel power is very cheap. It ranges between 25 paise to 40 paise a unit and loan we get from whatever agency, we can return that loan plus interest thereon within ten years. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should now think more about the hydel power.

The main problem which has to be understood is that out of ignorance and greed the forests of Himalayas are shrinking at a great speed. A good monsoon which used to be the symbol of prosperity for the entire nation, now brings havoc to the plain areas. According to the experts, the estimated value of the damage caused by the floods to the standing crops, animals, roads, buildings, agricultural land, etc. is about Rs, 1,000 crores a year. This amount does not include the damage inflicted to the other sectors of the economy, such as, pre-mature siltation of the hydel reservoirs. So, my submission is that more area has to be brought under green cover in the Himalayas. The Plan allocation should be made not only according to requirement of the respective States in the Himalayas but it has to be made according to the requirement of the entire nation.

It is heartening to note that in the Seventh Five Year Plan Document, stress has been laid on bringing more area under tree cover. About 33 per cent of the area is to be brought under tree cover, from the present level of 23 per cent.

16.00 hrs.

But it is not stated in that policy document as to how much period it will take. By the end of the century it is proposed that about 100 million hectares have to be brought under tree cover and according to the estimates available it is only 30.7 million hectares which is under good forests

and the rest of about 70 million hectare is to be brought under the tree cover. So, if we take the previous figure i.e. between 1950 and 1980, only 3.7 million hectares of land could be brought under the tree cover, if we presume whatever trees were plant had survived. So, I would suggest the Government of India and the Planning Commission to prepare a fifteen-year action plan for bringing more land under the tree cover. According to the estimates of the experts, if the shrinkage of the forests continues with the speed with which it is continuing at present, then within 60 years the entire Northern India will be desert. Even God will not be able to save Northern India from becoming desert. So, if the entire India or the northern States have to be saved from the havoc, then lot of finances have to provided for this purpose for Himalayan States.

In the last four or five years, the Government of India and the States in the Himalayan region have become alive of this danger. Some legislative measures have been taken and some policy decisions have also been taken. As far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, we have nationalised all the forests, but now the commercial exploitation is being done by the Government undertaking i.e. the Forest Corporation. This exploitation is to the tune of seven lakh forty thousand cubic metres. If we take the full requirement of fuel wood of Himachal Pradesh alone, then it comes to four to five million tonnes every year. If we calculate the exploitation and consumption of the wood in a year for commercial fuel wood purpose then we can imagine how much can be the shrinkage of these forests. In the interest of the entire nation as far as Himachal Pradesh is concerned, we are prepared to impose moratorium on the felling of the trees for the next fifteen to twenty years. Though we will be losing about twenty to twentyfive crores of rupees yet in the national interest of our request to the Government of India is that they should meet the cost of the establishment of forest department that comes to about Rs. 14 crores a year. I would suggest that this moratorium has to be imposed in rest of the Himalayan States if we have to save the Northern India. We are prepared to do it provided there is re-imbusement of the expenditure we incur on the establishment.

16.04 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

I would suggest if it is not possible for the Government of India and particularly the Planning Commission to create a cell for the hilly region in every department, they should at least activise the cell created in the Planning Commission. I would suggest that a person, who is well-conversent with the problems of the hills should head the Cell.

With these few words I support the resolution moved by my learned friend and I hope that whatever views the hill people express here, the Planning Commission will take them into consideration while finalising the Seventh Five Year Plan. I would also request the other hon. Members of this House that they should also support this Resolution so that we achieve the desired results.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat, regarding the development of the country and especially the development of backward and hill areas.

We have achieved political independence, but until we achieve economic and social independence, our political independence is incomplete. There is regional imbalance in our country and there are economic and social disparities. Under the present circumstances, one section of the society is very rich and the other section of the society is very poor and there is very wide gap between them. There are many states which are very backward, whereas other states are developing or marching towards development. We would have to do away with these regional economic and social imbalances and with this view I support the Resolution moved by Shri Rawat.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has taken very concrete steps for cleansing the river

[Shri Viridhi Chander Jain)

Ganga. The Himalayas play a very important role in the defence of our country and all the major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Kaveri and Sindhu etc. emanate from the Himalayas. These rivers help us to increase our agricultural production. Our country makes progress thereby and pace of development in the country is increased. If the Himalayas is deprived of its forest wealth and forests are demanded, our progress and development would come to a halt. There we must pay our attention towards the Himalayas,

Special attention needs to be paid towards the people living in hill areas. Our central government has paid its attention towards them. Shri Sukhramji has said that the central government has not paid its attention towards hill areas. This is wrong. The central government has paid its attention towards the hill areas in the Fifth Five Year Plan. Of course, the central government had not paid its attention towards hill areas during the first Four Five Year Plans, but the central government formulated two schemes for the hill areas during the Fifth Plan and the Sixth Plan. North Eastern Scheme was formulated for the North Eastern region, for which the entire amount of Rs. 340 crores was provided by the central government as special assistance.

The second scheme was formulated for the 8 districts of U.P., for which member of Lok Sabha, Shri Harish Rawat has also moved the Resolution. Under the second scheme, alongwith U.P, areas of Assam and Darjeeling of West Bengal were also covered. Not only that, Nilgiri areas of the West were also covered under it. In this way, this scheme was formulated for 2,30,000 square kilometers. This scheme was aimed at the development of the areas covering a population of 4 crores.

In this scheme of Rs. 560 crores, the subsidy component was 90 per cent and the loan component was 10 per cent. The central government and the Planning Commission have paid their attention towards this issue. But I would like to submit that even this provision of Rs. 560

crores by the planning Commission is inadequate, as a lot of work has to be done for the development of forests in the Himalayas. If forests are not developed, you would not be able to check the recurrence of floods. These floods are caused due to non-development of forests. It is therefore, essential that forests are developed and plantation of trees in the hill areas is undertaken on a massive scale, for which Shri Sunder Lal Bahuguna has also launched the *chipko* movement. The provision of Rs. 560 crores for development of hill areas which has been made during the Seventh Five Year Plan may be raised to Rs. 1000 crores. By making such a provision, topmost priority should be accorded to the development of social forestry. Thereafter, attention should be paid to the apple plantations and the cultivation of tomatoes.

Sir, you are already aware that everything cannot be produced in the hill areas. Wheat cannot be produced there. A certain amount of rice can be produced there. Therefore, whatever is possible there, must be produced. An hon. Member has rightly said that if an amount of Rs. 1,25,000 is spent for the construction of roads in the plains, for the construction of same length of roads in the hill areas an amount of Rs. 5 lakhs or even more would be required and if the mountain range is inaccessible, even Rs. 8 lakhs may be required. Therefore, special provision should be made for the development of hill areas.

Railway lines have been constructed only in Simla or Dehradun etc. in the hill areas. During the British rule, the Britishers had laid railway lines for their own convenience and entertainment. Therefore, you will have to lay railway lines in more places in the hill areas. Just as railway lines are being laid in the North Eastern areas, similarly you would have to expand the railway network in other hill areas. There is Aravali range of mountains in Rajasthan also. Our Hon. Prime Minister had visited Doongarpur, Banswara and Udaipur and many other areas. Aravali range of mountains should be included in the development programme of hill areas and special interest should be taken in the implementation of this programme.

Similarly, attention would have to be paid towards development of desert areas also. Our hon. Prime Minister visited desert areas in Rajasthan. He deserves our congratulations for this. Government has to spend a lot of money for the development of desert areas also and sufficient resources are not available. Hill areas and desert areas should be developed by declared "no industry district" and providing subsidy to them. The Electronics Industrial units could be established there. By doing so, these areas would be brought at par with other areas. When these areas are developed more than the plains, our country would also march forward. There is a vast scope for setting up of industries in these areas but, Government must have the will to do it. The Planning Commission should pay special attention towards these areas and only then these areas could be developed. Along with this, I would also submit to you that the desert areas should also be provided the same facilities which are provided to the hill areas and only then the regional imbalance could be removed.

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, I am very happy that the House has found time to discuss a very important resolution sponsored by one of our colleagues, Shri Harish Rawat.

Sir, about three years back, one of my resolutions on this topic was also discussed for a pretty long time and then the Minister for Planning, Shri N. D. Tiwari gave a solemn assurance to this House that, he would do his best for the development of hill areas since he was the Minister for Planning also. I think, the approach has been accepted but in concrete measures, it is not materialised. It is very good to praise the hill area. It is very easy to praise the beauty of hills—pine trees, snow-clad mountains and the innocent people and the crimeless situation. But what is required is not spiced words. What is required is, actual allocation in each Ministry for the development of hill areas and for the projects which are coming up, which are sanctioned and approved. There, they should give some priority.

The Northeastern Hill Council was

constituted for the development of North-eastern States and we welcome this idea of separate Plan outlay. But I am sorry to say that whereas the Northeast has been given some consideration, the North-western hill of the country, comprising Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and the hill districts of Uttar Pradesh have not got their due so far. We are in the Seventh Five Year Plan. But the projects which were started in the Sixth Five Year Plan have not been given adequate allocation. What is the reason for this? The reason is, no finances, no money and the financial constraint. As long as you base your parameters on the aspect of remunerative, no justice can be done to the hill areas. Let this House know and let the Government also know that the commercial activity in the plains is more attractive to the bureaucrats and the businessmen alike. I am sorry to say that it is for the Planning Commission also and with the result that the projects in the Plains get the cream of funds. If it is the Ministry of Communication, there is a golden triangle—Bombay, Calcutta and Delhi. They have the big chunk. If it comes to STD, golden triangle is there. If it comes to Railways, it is a quadrangle—Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi. They get the chunk.

We want to know how long will the situation continue? Are the backward areas including the desert areas, the tribal areas, the hill areas not part of the nation? They are. They are integral part of our country. The people live in extremities of weather, extremities of climate and yet they catch a little attention when it comes to the planner in the Yojana Bhavan.

Sir, I would request the Minister for Planning who is here to consider as to what has been the allotment by individual Ministries to the projects in the hill areas. If it comes to the construction of railway-line like Nangal-Talwara, or Kathgodam or even Jammu-Udhampur line, the allocation is mere trickle so that the project does not die. We do not want the project to die. We want the projects to be completed. We want them to be constructive and the Planning Commission has, therefore, to come to our rescue.

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

The hon. Member has asked for cells in each one of the Ministries. The fact whether there are cells or not is not very much important. But the Planning Commission, as the cardinal of the national economy, as the custodian of the development of the nation and as a sentinel for national integration, has to ensure that these areas get the requisite funds—whether you pipe them through the cells that you create in the Ministries or you ask for the individual figures for each project in each hill areas of our State. That would be the beginning of your concern for the development of hill areas.

The hill areas of the country constitute a big chunk of area but a small chunk of population. It is not our fault that Himachal Pradesh has a population of less than 5 millions. It is not the fault of Jammu & Kashmir. It is not the fault of the hill areas of Garhwal and Kumaon. It is rather a good thing that the population is small and you have such a big chunk of area. But what are you doing for its development? So, this natural wealth has to be taken into account. The natural resources of the hills are being denuded by the commercial dams on the plains. The factories come up in the plains and flourish. Big cities develop and the hills suffer because the transport infrastructure is not there. The railway lines are not there. The roads are not there. The bridges are not there and the worst of it all, we are the victims of your planning since the First Five Year Plan. You have created these dams on our soil, the Bhakra, the Pong, this and that, and thousands of families have been evacuated. They have settled in Haryana and in Rajasthan. But in some cases, land has not been transferred to them. They do not own the land which was allotted to them in lieu of the sacrifices that they made coming from the plains of Bilaspur or some other areas and the result is dams come up, the projects come up, electricity comes, the irrigation comes but the people cry for justice.

A petition was made to the Petition Committee of this august House in the 6th Lok Sabha by people of Himachal

Pradesh who did not get their land in Hissar and other areas of Haryana because they could not get benefit from the IRDP and other programmes. They do not have any land in their name there. The local pressure is very high there.

I would request you to see what has happened. On the one hand, the people from the hills leave their hearth and homes. Their fertile valley gets submerged in the rising of the lake. They work on the water dams, electricity projects, irrigation projects and, on the other, they run from pillar to post. They are citizens of this beautiful hilly area which you create and spin poetry around them and you fail to take note of their misery.

So I would suggest that there should be an appraisal of the Planning Commission. Is the Planning Commission earnest about the fate of the hill areas?

The hon Minister should come and inform this House as to what is the actual allocation made to each one of the projects, may be railways, may be roads, may be bridges, may be hydro-generation and may be tele communications, may be postal activities or promotion of tourism or other activities. What is the actual allocation which has been given to them in each Budget and in each year of the Five Year Plan?

Very pious words flow and sweet lies honey.

We are told that hill areas is the concern of the State Government. But the Constitution-makers, in their wisdom, created three Lists, the Concurrent List, the Central List and the State List. All right. Development of agriculture is the concern of States because that is in the State List. What about the subjects in the Central List? Who is responsible for the development of hill areas so far as the railways, tele-communication, tourism and civil aviation and other things are concerned?

We are crying for an aerodrome at Simla and, time and again, files are tossed about and we are asked to give up the work, Simla is the one capital of the

State which is not linked by air. Similarly, there are other things which we require. We require aerodrome & we require special attention for tourism. We have been crying for a direct train from Pathankot to Delhi but the trains are extended to Jammu and Kashmir. That is a good thing. That is also a part of the country. But the people of Himachal have to suffer because they would not stop at Pathankot. The Ministry of Railways would turn a deaf ear.

Our Chief Minister has proposed Naptba Jakhri project and other pipeline projects are coming along the Sutlej Basin. We have railway line from Nangal-Rampur to Mandi. That would be a very good project and up to Bilaspur it is a remunerative line. But the Planning Commission would refuse to consider it because there is constraint of resources.

When the question of development of hills comes up, there is constraint of resources. If the doubling and trebling of railway line in Bombay comes up, there is no constraint of resources. If you want a project in Calcutta, you move along for electrification of the entire line from Calcutta to Delhi and there is no constraint of resources. Because they are departmental concerns, they are recurring-expenditure projects. But when it comes to a new thing for Himachal Pradesh or Jammu & Kashmir or north-eastern region, then the board of constraint of resources is planted across our faces to tell us that we in the hills are second class citizens of the this country. We are not. In Himachal Pradesh alone more than 1,000 people have sacrificed their lives in the defence of their motherland since independence in the wars against Pakistan and China. And what have these people in Himachal Pradesh got? A branch of a bank cannot be sanctioned because the population is small. A bridge cannot be sanctioned because somebody earlier had got one bridge constructed. I must praise the hon. Minister Shri Chandrashekhar Singh who gave us one bridge at Dehar when he was Minister of Energy; he found that it was the genuine difficulty of the people and therefore, he gave it. But the bridge over Alhikhad near Bilaspur is still pending because the Bhakra-Beas Management Board which earns a lot of money from the canals and

electricity projects of Bhakra and Nangal refuses to acknowledge this fact that Himachal also has a due claim on this. We have a claim on the greenery of the Punjab, we have a claim on the electrified townships of the other areas. If they can prosper at our cost, the hills have no reason to be neglected. The people will not bear this for long. I want to place this on record that the people of our State, whether in the army or in the civil services, are crying for justice, and the Planning Commission has to ensure justice.

Similarly, our Chief Minister and the State Government have been suggesting various projects. For example, my friend Mr. Sukh Ram spoke of the areas which are snow-bound. The late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi went to Lahul-Spiti and said that there should be a tunnel under the Rothang Pass to connect the Lahul-Spiti area. Those people stood loyally with the country. The Chinese attack was repulsed because every person in this area thought of his motherland; they said, "We are with our motherland, we are with India." For almost nine months in a year, they remain frozen, they remain isolated. The country does not bother about them. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi went there, there was a feeling that something would be done. But where is the mention of this tunnel in the Seventh Plan? Where is the mention of this Behrampur-Bilaspur-Mandi/Rampur proposed railway line? Where is the mention of Nangal-Talwara line? Nothing. And it is said, 'constraint of resources'. I would, therefore, plead here in all humility. Afforestation for stopping of floods is very good. But unless the people of the hill areas are given justice, unless the projects for afforestation, for creation of infrastructure, for connecting various areas with bridges, railway lines, roads and telecommunication facilities and other facilities are given, people of hill areas will have a feeling of unrest which is not good for the country. National integration demands, the dreams of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the firm steps of Shri Rajiv Gandhi demand that the hill areas should be given their due in the Seventh Plan and each year of the Plan should have sufficient funds for the completion of these projects: these must be accepted on a priority basis for the success

[Prof Narain Chand Parashar]

of our plans not only for the hill areas but for the entire country because these areas constitute a vital link in the national economy, they constitute a vital factor for the future of our country.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for the opportunity you are giving to me to take part in this very valuable debate. I am really thankful to my hon. colleague Shri Harish Rawat for bringing forward this Resolution and also to the new hon. Member from Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukh Ram, who has made his maiden speech, for his contribution.

I represent the north-eastern area, the hill area, the eastern-most part of the Himalayas; and our problems are peculiar. Our region is a very angry region of the hill areas. History has shown, after independence, that in Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland are now joined by a part of Tripura, there has been a long spell of insurgency. The character of the development, the progress of the development, in these hill areas in the north-east, even after 38 years of independence, is that, most of these small States and union territories have now rail heads in their areas. There are no major industries. There is the massive problem of educated unemployment. The prices are abnormally high because of the transport bottlenecks. For instance, a brick costs two rupees now. One thousand first class bricks cost two thousand rupees. People are used to it. In this angry State, particularly of the youth the attention given to the development of hilly areas has not been adequate. It has been pointed out time and again that sufficient funds have been allotted and proper care has been taken for the development of north eastern areas. Sir, on the other day only I took advantage of a debate and mentioned that there is nothing like a generalised term "North-Eastern Area".

These small States and union territories have got their own problems. These small problems are now magnified because there has been no solution. Now the basic problem is unemployment. The only way to solve this problem is to start industries

based on agriculture, based on forest products. But indiscriminate destruction of forests in these areas will lead to practically non-availability of forest materials.

The western parts of Manipur State has plenty of bamboo resource. There has been a prolonged demand for a paper and pulp industry in Manipur. This has not been considered. There might be reasons for the Central Government, but the fact remains that bamboo resource of Manipur is being utilised for other areas.

Railway should be a good solution for those who are craving for employment. But there is no possibility of having any extension of railway in these areas. What is the way out ?

The only progress we have made there is in the field of education. Education had created a problem, but we have solved the problem of lack of schools and colleges. But along with the development in the field of education, we have created the problem of educated unemployment also. In Manipur we have as many as 60 First Grade colleges-including, of course, some private colleges which are not yet permanently affiliated to the universities. This means that every year we are producing graduates—a vast number of them. People who could have stopped at the stage of matriculation and opted for some kind of employment here and there, are now taking to education, because there is a way out. The parents want to keep their children engaged somewhere and these colleges are for the time being, good areas where the children can be kept satisfied. After graduation, to some extent, these boys and girls go for post graduation studies also. After getting MA, M.Sc. and getting technical education, they have no way to go out.

Every State has got their own problems. Even the nearest big State of Assam has its own problems. They cannot help the neighbouring small States. Our suggestion from the very beginning has been that we should improve the forest area. Particularly referring to my own State which has an area of 22,000 sq miles, one-tenth is the valley and this bears all the burden of industries, agriculture, vegetable production and has nine-tenths of

the population and the rest are hilly areas, which are now being indiscriminately wiped out. This has affected us in so many ways. No. 1 this deforestation has affected the agricultural programme of the valley because floods come and as soon as floods go, there is the drought. Floods and drought follow on each other's heels and the topography of the valley is such that the sloping is so acute that water is not retained and from the catchment area to the end of the river water comes and goes so quickly. Naturally, the indiscriminate destruction of the forests in the hill areas is affecting the environment and it is affecting the climate. It may be true of Nagaland and it may be true of Mizoram also. Now if this is not checked, the entire area, its economy and agriculture will be affected.

So, our suggestion is : (1) this indiscriminate destruction of forests should be checked. Here the ICAR could play an important role. Because some of the hill areas are given to terrace cultivation, a programme could be handled in such a way that the jhumming cultivation, that is, the shifting cultivation indulged in by most of our tribals in these areas could be stopped. This can be done not merely by giving slogans but by training them and also giving them alternative arrangements. For instance, for fuel we have to depend upon the hill areas to provide us fire-wood. We have no coal supply. Then for our house building, furniture and other requirements of construction we have to depend upon the forest areas. Therefore, first we must go in for an intensive afforestation programme. Secondly, whatever resources are now available, we can utilise them. For instance, the bamboo resources in the western sector of Manipur should be utilised for starting a paper industry which can be established in the public sector.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : That would destroy the very same forests: Think of something else.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : About other resources in the hill areas, we have a lot of lime-stone deposits in our areas. There has been no proper survey and where there has been a survey and a project was sanctioned, it has not been properly

implemented for reasons best known to the authorities. We would like to invite the special attention of the Home Ministry and the Ministries concerned in this regard so that we receive not only routine sanctions and routine instructions but we also receive sanctions of major projects which bring a stable economy to the State. I think if this is done, it will help in the development of our State and save the people from the deteriorating political climate.

One point I would like to mention is about the Tusser silk scheme. This has been a very successful scheme but somehow this was stopped while progressing midway. The oak trees are favourable to the rearing of silk worm, particularly tusser worm. So, I would request the Textile Minister to give it a further boost.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on the private Members' Resolution moved by Shri Harish Rawat. I congratulate him for bringing forward this Resolution for discussion in the House. I fully agree with the spirit of the Resolution.

Sir, it is good that of late the Government has taken up the hill area development programme because the fruits of planned development had not reached the people living in the hill areas as compared to the people living in the plains and other parts of the country. So, it is very good that the Government has taken up this programme. It has also evolved certain methods through which the allotments made to different States are systematised.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that unfortunately in these areas which are identified for receiving the benefits, the Eastern Ghats are omitted. I don't say it is a discrimination. It might be an unwitting omission. If we view from the point of view of certain criteria by which these areas are identified, even if we take the criteria of the height or the slope, the Eastern Ghats are fully justified to be included in these areas and are eligible for special Central assistance.

In our State in East Godavari, Vishakh-

[Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

hapatnam and Srikakulam districts the Eastern Ghats are there and the people are very very backward. I only remind the hon. Minister that the Naxalbari movement had raised its ugly head in the Srikakulam hill area where most of the people are tribals and illiterate. They do not have any knowledge of modern agricultural practices. They are very far away from the economic development taking place in other parts of the country. So, it is for that reason these naxalites influenced these poor tribal people and brought them into their fold and continued the movement for a long period, resulting in great loss to the people, to the State as well as the economy. The movement which started there has got reduced in its intensity due to some efforts on the part of the State Government by taking A.P. Tribal Development Corporation in those areas where those tribals who gathered the forest wealth available in those hills were being exploited by the middlemen and the traders. They used to take away all the profits thereby keeping those people always poor. They remain always poor. Now, after coming into being of this Tribal Development Corporation, it has helped to some extent. But even today I am only sorry to state that the situation has not improved much. A survey conducted by the Government of India has clearly indicated that Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Srikakulam districts which form part of Eastern Ghats, are fit for coffee plantations, pepper and other species of plants. A very valuable forest wealth can be obtained from these areas. So, I request the Government to include the Eastern Ghats also in those identified areas so that they also become eligible for getting special component Central assistance and those people get help for taking up these crops as well as develop social forestry and sericulture. There is ample opportunity for rearing cows there. We are spending a lot of money on operation Flood II and in our State, a lot of efforts are put in that aspect. But unfortunately, in the plains due to very poor social economic conditions, the farmer is not very much interested in rearing the cows. So, the farmers are selling their cows. But in the hilly

areas, cows can be reared with very low cost and when they are grown up, they can be sold to the people in the plains. In this way, the poor people living in the hills can earn some money. I would therefore request the Government to take up all these programmes as well as establishing electronic and some small scale industries in these areas for the betterment of these people. I would also request the Government to take up social forestry programme through which the environment can also be improved. I appeal to the Government to include the Eastern Ghats in Andhra Pradesh particularly the districts of Visakhapatnam, East Godavari and Srikakulam so that they may become eligible for Central Assistance Programme.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very glad indeed that this question has come up for important discussion in this House. Various Members have already given many details as to how the forest wealth is being destroyed, denuded and the hill areas have been eroded because of the destruction of forests. Therefore, the Government itself has recognised the need to develop these areas and they have constituted these Committees. In doing so, they have tried to map out certain areas as deserving consideration and Central assistance. I agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Sobhanadreeswara Rao in his Suggestion that hilly areas on the Eastern Ghats right from Orissa area coming down from Bailadila and right down to Nallamalla and then coming from Mahendragiri and Shevara hills and then meeting the Western Ghats at Nilgiris, should be included in the list of areas which deserve special consideration.

My hon. friend from Manipur, a North-Eastern State, has stated their case very ably. I endorse almost all the points and suggestions that he made except in regard to his suggestion for a paper mill. That has got to be examined very carefully in the light of the need for preserving and developing forest wealth. On the first appearance, that area appears to be so full of bamboos, so is the case with Malabar, some of the areas in Konkan, and so is the case with Vindhya Pradesh. But when it

comes to the case of a factory, and its terrific hunger for so many tonnes and tonnes of bamboos and the need for destroying all these bamboo clusters, we would have to be extremely careful, how far it is likely to add to the growing destruction of the forest in those areas. In this way, every other suggestion also for the development of industries in these area has got to be studied in a comprehensive manner with a view to see that the general ecology of these areas is properly maintained and sustained.

Apart from all this, if we accept all these suggestions, and we wish to implement them, there is the question of money, the financial resources. It is true that our Government since independence has been sparing more and more money when compared to what was happening when the Britishers were here. But what has been set apart for the development of these areas is really very small when compared to their needs. Wherefrom has this money to come? We are making so many special efforts in order to develop under-developed areas, like no industry areas, under-developed district areas and so on. In the same way, with greater emphasis we should think of the needs of the hilly areas and more especially of the tribal people. It is easy for us to say that the people of hilly areas should be protected, but what do we mean by people of hilly areas? Is it the people from the plains who go over there as merchants, industrialists and others, who are interested in exploiting the tribal people, or people who have been forced to live there for ages and ages and ages because of the pressure of population in the plains and, therefore, they had to withdraw themselves to the innermost recesses of these hills? It is these people, the tribal people, who should be given the first preference. That is one of the reasons why the other day, I posed a question to one of the Ministers here that when we are thinking of giving special facilities for people to organise and develop small and medium scale industries in these areas, Government should remember, the planners should remember, that first preference should be given to these people, in fact, the whole preference should be given to these tribal people to develop these industries, but are we in a position to do that? Have they got the knowhow,

have they got the managerial capacity and have they got the finances and so on? Therefore, would it not be necessary for the Government to think in terms of organizing cooperative enterprises there and play the role of protective mother, in so far as the cooperative enterprises and other smaller enterprises which may be organised by the tribal people themselves are concerned.

In addition to that, would it not be advisable for the Government itself with the cooperation of the local people to take the initiative to organise those industries and welcome the tribal people into cooperation in developing these industries, and working first as workers, then as managers and then as Directors.

Therefore, in all these directions, a new thought has got to be given carefully with the sole aim of helping these tribal people to come into their own. How are we to protect them from the ravages of the people who would be coming from the plains? The cooperation of the plains people is needed and can be made use of, but only subject to the overall responsibility of subordinating their claims to the overall needs and demands of the rights of the tribal people. That is the most important thing.

Supposing, we have all these things, where is the money to come from? Soon after the Second World War, all over Europe in the Western World, they imposed, what was known as 'Reconstruction Tax' in order to help those areas which had been destroyed. Similar effort has got to be made in this country. A particular cess of 5 per cent or 2 per cent, whatever it may be, on import duty as well as excise duty has got to be imposed over the whole of India and a special sum of money has got to be collected and pooled together every year and from out of it, you make grants to various areas for their development. Unless we make the rest of India, rest of the people of India to make their conscious contribution through this kind of a cess for the development of these areas and these tribal people, I do not think that it would be possible for the Planning Commission to devise some way by which they can possibly set apart sufficient funds for

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

the development of these areas, and these people.

There is handloom weaving industry in these areas. It is a domestic industry, but at the same time it can also be developed into a commercial enterprise. Then there is sericulture industry. So many other industries also can be thought of, in line with the overall need for the preservation and development of forest wealth. All these industries can be developed on a very large scale, but with the cooperation and combination of a large number of small units which would be within the industrial ken of those people.

Therefore, I mentioned this matter to our Prime Minister and he, himself, is seized of the importance of this particular problem. He is thinking about it and I think the Planning Commission is now giving some thought to it. I sincerely hope that it would be possible for the Prime Minister to think of such plans and such manner of helping these people and take over hundred per cent of responsibility and relieve the financial burden from the shoulders of the local governments which are already over-burdened and see to it that adequate funds are provided.

In that direction, I make this constructive suggestion that there should be a special cess or special tax. It is for the Planning Commission as well as the Finance Minister and the concerned development Ministries is the Government of India to think of some such special means by which the whole of India, which is better developed and which is being developed more and more, can be expected to make their specific contribution for the special development of these areas and thus for the development of their mother earth also.

So, in passing, let me say a word about the Chambal area. As you go by road or by train, you see thousands and thousands of acres of land, all broken up, as if the mother earth has been broken up into so many gashing wounds. All that areas has got to be developed. So is the case with Rajasthan and so is the case with large

areas of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. All these areas are crying for development and more so, their people. Therefore, their claim on the generosity, on the capacity to sacrifice and suffering and the contribution of the other people, becomes insistent if only we give some thought to it. Mahatma Gandhi used to think about these people day and night and so was Thakkar Baba. Therefore, I hope Government would give serious thought to this.

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this Resolution is over. Shall we extend the time ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI (Kanpur) : Mr Chairman, Sir, I rise an a point of order. If you are extending the time, when would you take up my Resolution?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shall we extend the time ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : By one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : In such a case. The other Resolution of Bill does not lapse Permission may be given to move it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House agrees to extend the time for Resolution by one hour more.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI : Should I move my Resolution,

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is for the House to decide. Shri K.D. Sultanpuri.

17.02 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me time to express my views.

If one looks towards the development of all the hill areas in the Himalayas, whether it is U.P., Kashmir, Himachal or Nagaland, whatever roads have been constructed in the hill areas are Kachcha roads, the rains wash away these roads in one year only. In this way all the money spent on them is wasted. The State Governments do not have funds for their maintenance. The State Governments are incapable of maintaining them. If taxes are levied in hill areas, people do not have the capacity to pay the taxes.

I would like to submit that if hill areas are to be developed and the villages in the hill areas are to be linked by roads, it is essential that more funds are allocated for this purpose.

Many things have been said by Prof. Rangaji that felling of trees is leading to the soil erosion in the hill areas. It is causing great damage to our country. If the soil is carried to the plains during rains, our agriculture would suffer a huge loss.

I would like to submit that recently the hill areas have faced the drought and the people of hill areas have suffered a lot. In many villages, the women have to walk a long distance to fetch drinking water. The men in the village go outside for work, but the condition of the women is very pitiable. The women have to cover long distances to fetch water for themselves and the cattle. In this way the people of the backward classes are facing great difficulty.

I would like to submit that lift irrigation schemes should be formulated for Himachal Pradesh and other hill areas.

I would like to submit that the estimates for a high school in hill areas should not be prepared on the basis of the estimates for a high school in plains. A member from Mainpur had said that the cost of a brick in their area comes to about Rs. 2. How can schools and colleges be constructed this way ?

The education in the hill areas is in a very bad state. The arrangement for is such that there are middle schools in far flung areas high schools are in other areas and colleges are at a distance of as much as 10 to 12 miles.

Although we want to remove unemployment among them and ask them to compete in the examination yet they are unable to get employment and that is why they remain backward. Bank Officers are sent from here but they do not work properly because they want to get away from there. There are very few people whom the climate of that area suits. Therefore, you will have to provide better amenities for them, like education for their children etc. and develop it in such a way so that they do not face any difficulty there. Our hon. Prime Minister has personally visited many of these places and he deserves congratulation for that. For the removal of poverty in the hill areas good programmes have also been drawn up.

We often observe these days that the children of poor people of hill areas do not get admissions in public schools or the Central Schools, but on the other hand the children of baristers and other elites get admission in those schools. This inequality will have to be removed.

The benefits of I.R.D.P. and other such programmes are also not reaching the poor hill people. They are not educated and they do not know how to get a loan and therefore they are deprived of this facility.

The hill areas are being denuded of the trees. Steps should be taken to check this,

[K. D. Sultanpuri]

In this regard the Resolution of Shri Harish Rawat contains good points and he deserves congratulation for that. This Resolution will help in checking denudation of forests in hill States like Himachal Pradesh, U.P., Nagaland, Mizorm, Kashmir, etc. I would suggest that a cell should be set up in every Ministry which may monitor the development of hill areas. Since Independence i.e. since the Britishers left this country, no new railway line has been laid in the hill areas. The condition of roads is deplorable. All the Kachcha roads should be metalled. The people are leading a difficult life.

All the new industries are being set up in the plains. The hill areas have been left far behind. There is need to set up factories in the hill areas and to issue licences for setting up new industries but that is not being done because the hill people are generally poor. They do not know what sort of industry would be feasible in that area. The people who get subsidy are very clever. They get the licences issued from the Ministry of Industries, but they do not set up any industry therefor as long as 8 to 10 years after that, and the people do not get any employment whatsoever. So, what is the use of such factories ?

Himachal Pradesh had also to face the law and order problem on account of disturbances on the Punjab border. The same is true of Uttar Pradesh. If you happen to go from Kotdwar towards Pithoragarh, you would see that there is no industry around. No one is ready to set up an industry either in Chamoli district or in the higher reaches of Garhwal or Rishikesh. Who would go there ?

The dams on the hydel projects in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are becoming sited on account of soil erosion. Enough funds will have to be allocated so that afforestation and plantation of trees could be taken up so as to check soil erosion. Special attention should be paid towards it.

It has been rightly said that an electronics complex should be set up in hill

areas. There is wide scope for electronics in the hill areas. In the plains there is need for air-conditioners in the electronics factories but in the hills there is no such need. So, in future more licences should be issued for electronics factories in the hill areas.

The condition of telecommunications in the hills is deplorable. There are no telephones at many places. When the telephone department is asked to provide that, the Ambala or the Lucknow office clarifies that the necessary requirements are not being met. The criterion can be met only when there are no hill areas. More funds should be allocated for the effective functioning of the telecommunications there.

Apples and potatoes are cultivated in our State and both these crops are infested with a number of diseases. I would request the hon. Minister to allow the farmers to cultivate opium so that they get more money for their produce and the crops are not affected by any disease. We distribute insecticides.....*(Interruptions)* Dagaji, you are laughing, because you are not aware of the problem. These things should be done on priority basis.

Hon. Brahm Dutt is present and he has been the Finance Minister of Uttar Pradesh. His constituency extends from Rishikesh right up to Himachal Pradesh. It has been declared as a tribal area. I demand that Renuka, Shilai, Chaupal and Rodu Assembly segments should also be declared as tribal areas and they should get the same facilities as are available to the people of Uttar Pradesh so that they can make progress.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to Shri Harish Rawat who has moved this Resolution and also to you for giving me this opportunity to speak for the poor people who live in hill areas. When one moves from Punjab into Jammu and Kashmir State one finds the Pakistan border on one side all along and on the other side it is all mountainous. This is an area where, as Shri Sultanpuri also pointed out, one has to cover a distance of ten

kilometres to fetch water. So far agriculture is concerned, in the first instance nothing can be cultivated and if per chance the maize crop is cultivated either there is no rain or if there are rains the bear or other wild animals destroy the crop. In the Bhadarwah and Kishtwar areas raw material is to be found in abundance and mines can be exploited but there are no means of communications in these places. The most famous sapphire mine is in this area, but even if ration is to be carried to that place it will have to be carried on the sheep or goat back. There is no other means of transport. Therefore, I would request, as Harish Rawat has already suggested, that a cell should be set up in every Ministry which may look to the welfare of hill areas and give priority to their development. There are no two opinions that there are many natural resources in hill areas which can still be exploited. The Government has made considerable efforts in this direction but they are still inadequate. There is wide scope for hydro-electric power project in our State. It is true that two projects have been launched—one is at Kishtwar and the other is at Salal—but it is not enough. Tourism should be encouraged and necessary arrangements should be made to develop the area so that the plight of poor people may improve. First priority should be given to the construction of roads so as to make these places accessible to the tourists. The people wish to travel to these places but they are unable to do so in the prevailing conditions. The people there depend on tourism for their means of livelihood but how can the tourists reach these places if there are no roads? If the tourists do not go there the plight of the people will remain unchanged because there is no other work at these places and there is continuous felling of trees.

It is true that a railway line between Jammu and Udhampur is being laid and it is a matter of only 60 kilometres but the pace of work on this line is so slow that I feel it would take another ten years and then it will be of no use. Besides, labour engaged in this work has also been hired from outside the State, I, therefore, emphasize the need to encourage tourism,

The rearing of sheep and goats has also great scope in the State. People should be provided loans for it. You would be surprised to know that if mutton is to be supplied in that area, the goats are brought from Rajasthan. The milk consumed in Kashmir comes from Amritsar, Government has allocated considerable funds for the schemes formulated by it;

The common man and the poor man does not get the benefit of these allocations. It was being discussed in the morning in this House that one is not able to get subsidy in the plains till one bribes the concerned person who sanctions the subsidy. You can yourself imagine the condition in hill areas regarding the subsidy. There is no doubt that Government has made a lot of efforts in this direction. This is an important place and during the times of the Mughals when the Emperor happened to pass by, he used to stay at least for two to four days here. But gone are those days and now, if the plight of the poor has to be improved then the means of communications will have to be provided and tourism will have to be promoted.

Another most important thing is that people from other parts of the country have gone to the hill areas and have earned crores of rupees by selling its precious forest wood and resin, but the poor man of that area did not get even a single paisa as his share. I would, therefore, request the Government to pay immediate attention to the plight of the poor in the State and help in improving it and making it more strong. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for the manner in which he has been working for the development of the country. Some people were apprehensive and others floated rumours to the effect that the country would face internal and external problems and the condition of the country would deteriorate and it is not going to improve. There were problems in the country such as Punjab problem; Assam problem and Gujarat problem, but the manner in which the Hon. Prime Minister solved all these problems shows that he came like an angel and curbed the people who wanted to create chaos in the country,

[Shri Janak Kumar Gupta]

He said that he wanted to work for the progress of the country. He made possible the task which appeared impossible. He obtained first hand information by visiting the huts of the Adivasis and he is making all efforts to remove their poverty. He has anxiety towards the problems of the people of the country, similarly he has love for these people as well. I am fully confident that he would provide more funds for solving their problems and for their upliftment.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, only he can enjoy the scenic beauty of the hills, who does not cause damage to them. Rawat Sahib has moved the Resolution for the development of hill areas; we would like to live in the deep woods and it would be better if the city dwellers do not cause any damage to the hills. But the people living in the cities have destroyed the forests. The hon. Planning Minister should give serious thought to their problems and apply his cool mind. The people living in cities have played with the lives of the people living in the hill areas. Rawatji, all the mountains are the abode of gods. Badrinath temple is in the mountains. Dehradun, Nainital all these places are abode of gods, but ever since the people of cities started visiting these places, they constructed roads there and destroyed the forests. The people living in the hill areas used to be very strong, but Rawatji, you are no longer that much strong. After moving in motors and cars on Delhi roads, you have lost your vigour and vitality. The people of cities cannot be so strong as the people of desert areas who walk on foot in the deserts. What is the condition of our hill stations today? What sort of hill stations—Mahabaleshwar and Ootacamund are there these days? You can have a look at Darjeeling near Calcutta. You can see Mount Abu in Rajasthan, what has happened there? The rich people have constructed their bungalows there. They have denuded the forests of all their vegetation. Forests have been destroyed by them... (Interruptions)... These people living in the cities have not done any good to us.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should address the chair.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Sir, All these members, speak collectively. I therefore, seek your protection. I am speaking under your protection. This thing has come to my mind. If nobody had caused any damage to the mountains or the forests, this condition would not have developed there. Paper mills have been set up there and thousands of areas of land has been denuded of the trees and vegetation. Such a scheme has been formulated by you. What sort of plans do you want for these areas? Fortunately, our Minister for Science and Technology is sitting here. All of us should give serious thought to this problem. The people of our Rajasthan, who live in the desert areas, are so strong and sturdy that nobody can compete with them. Even the football players cannot beat them in any competition. If we have to defend the Himalayas against China, only the people living in the mountains can do that. Only they can face them and not Rawatji. Therefore, new methods and new techniques should be adopted there. Industries should be set up there. Projects of Science and Technology should be undertaken there. I have been observing your planning for the last 38 years. Many plans have been implemented and despite spending a huge amount during First, Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth Plans, desired development in the hill areas has not taken place...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time for Private Members Resolution is over. This discussion will continue next time. Mr. Daga will continue.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Price of colour T.V. sets

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Triupati) : At the time of the ASIAD in November 1982, we had imported 90,000 television kits. At that time we had given 400 licences out of which 50 manufacturers are at present manufacturing colour TV

sets now a days in our country. Actually 60,000 TV sets are manufactured per year in India, but the TV manufacturers in their false reports are saying that they are manufacturing two million TV sets. That is only on paper.

Coming to Unstarred Question No 216 of 24th July, 1985, the Minister in his Statement had said that he had taken an undertaking from the TV manufacturers of India. He also said that some of the TV manufacturers are violating the rules. The Minister also had stated that he had given a notice of inquiry to the MRTP Commission.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister when he has written a letter to the MRTP Commission. And if the TV manufacturers are violating the rules, what action has been taken by the Government and the Ministry against the TV manufacturers.

The Minister in his Statement had said that six manufacturers had come forward to sell the TV sets through Super Bazars and the Cooperative Societies. I would like to know who are those six manufacturers and who have come forward to give the TV sets through cooperative societies and through the Super Bazars and at what prices.

The Hon. Minister had said that he had taken an undertaking from the TV manufacturers. I would like to read the undertaking which the hon. Minister had taken from the TV manufacturers on a non-judicial stamp paper of Rs. 2/- . The statement is like that :

“We have applied for import license for components and parts required for the manufacture of colour TV sets under the scheme evolved by the Government. We undertake the ex-factory price of colour TV sets will not exceed Rs. 5,200 for an ordinary set and for electronic tuner it will be Rs. 5,600. Based on the prices we will take undertaking from the dealers that the ultimate consumer will get colour TV manufactured by us at a price not more than Rs. 7,500.”

They had also committed that the dealers will sell colour TV set with electronic tuner at not more than Rs. 8,000/-. They had committed in their agreement. This price is inclusive of guarantee and warrantee and the sales-tax is to be paid for sales in Delhi. For sales in States outside Delhi, the amount of sales-tax will be adjusted accordingly, according to the local rates. They also said :

“We undertake that any violation of this undertaking by the manufacturers shall be liable to action, including action under the Import Control Regulations.”

But as you said in your unstarred question that they have violated the rules, I would like to know what is the action that is going to be taken by you ?

Also the late Prime Minister in her Statement on 14th April, 1984 had said :

“Based on the reductions in the customs and excise-duties, the Government had estimated that colour television sets of 51 centimetres may be available for around Rs. 5,000/-. Some such sets are now being marketed at around Rs. 5,200 exclusive of local taxes.”

But they are selling it at minimum price of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 15,000 now.

If you have at least minimum regard and respect to that statement, if you think the statement is factually correct, I want to know what is the action you are going to take against these TV manufacturers.

At this juncture I would like to bring to your notice that out of 90,000 television kits you have done the distribution to some of the firms like this :

Bharat Television Ltd.
Bangalore 2,627 kits

[Shri Chinta Mohan]

High Veen Electronics 2,034
Bush India Ltd.

Bombay 829 plus 940 kits

Cosmic Company 100 kits

Western Electronics (P) Ltd.

1,371 plus 3,680 kits

Beltek 5,486 plus 1,580 kits

Nelco 96 kits

Have you at any time bothered to know from the TV manufacturers whether they have sold to consumers at a reasonable price ?

I would like to say that in my constituency and in other parts of India TV manufacturers are selling in different rates starting from Rs. 10,000 and upto Rs. 15,000.

I would like to quote some examples for your information, Sir, and for the information of the House :—

Mr. K. R. Nagarajan, with Bill No. 67, dated 22.1.85 purchased Dyanora CTV from M/s Apollo Electronics, Tirupati, my constituency, for Rs. 10,000.

Shri E. Sree Ramachandra of Visakhapatnam of my State purchased from Needs Electronics, a Dyanra CTV for Rs. 15,000 with Bill No. 42 on 26.11.84.

Another Shri Venkataswamy of Secunderabad purchased a Dynaora CTV from J.P. Electronics, Secunderabad, with Bill No. 308 on 10.8.83 for Rs. 10,000.

Shri G. Nagarajan of Jamshedpur purchased a Televista CTV with Bill No. 194 on 20.1.85 for Rs. 10,000.

Shrimati P. Shakuntamma of Anantapur purchased Crown CTV from Gemini Radio Centre with Bill No. 173 on 24.11.84 for Rs. 10,500.

The Minister in his reply said that these people will sell for Rs. 5,000 to Rs.

5,500 etc. These people are actually violating the rules of the Government. So, what is the action that you are going to take ?

In your reply to the Unstarred Question, you have said that you have given notice of enquiry to MRTP Commission. I would like to know as to when you have written letter to the MRTP Commission. Recently I went to the MRIP Commission and they told me that no such letter was received by them till that day. They said that some voluntary organisation,—‘VOICE’ or some such organisation,—has written them a letter stating all these facts.

I would like to say that you have committed in your reply to the Unstarred Question that you yourself have complained to the MRTP Commission but they clearly told me that no such letter was received by them from Government or from the Ministry or from the Minister. This is what they said.

I would like to say that all these things were done with the connivance of the TV manufacturers. Some of the bureaucrats and people in the Ministry have connived with TV manufacturers and the TV manufacturers were allowed to increase their prices. I do not know why the Ministry is not able to curb these practices. Sir, in spite of the promise given by the late Prime Minister and also the undertaking taken from the TV manufacturers, this Ministry is not able to come forward and curb these malpractices of the TV manufacturers. I would like to say at this juncture that it is a failure of the Government; it is a failure of the Ministry that they have not been able to curb these practices. I say, it is total failure of the Government. I would now like to suggest some ways by which you can prevent them from raising the prices in this fashion.

I would like to suggest to you that we should announce the TV set rates particularly through TV programmes once in a month and also through All India Radio and newspaper agencies. Some of the newspaper agencies are giving the reports, but they are totally false. Also sale of

TV sets through Super Bazar and through other Government agencies will be possible. They cannot sell them at increased prices.

The third point I would like to make is that if you have not written any letter to the MRTP Commission about bogus TV manufacturers, I request you to write at least now to the MRTP Commission and see that something is done to the consumers particularly. If the manufacturers are found guilty, their licences should be cancelled immediately.

Finally, I would like to say that the consumers who have purchased the TV sets for more than Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 15,000, should be paid back the excess amount charged from them. Then only justice will be done to those people.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : Sir, at the time of ASIAD we wanted to provide colour TV sets to the viewers and so we allowed the TV sets to be imported in India. Objection was taken to the importation of TV sets at that time. So, we allowed the kits to be imported. The kits were imported by ETTD Corporation, with the approval of the Department of Electronics, which carries on trade with electronic gadgets, components, materials and things like that. Those kits were given to the manufacturers of TV. At that time the Government wanted that the TV sets should be sold to the consumers at reasonable prices. So an agreement was entered into between the Government on the one hand and the manufacturers—please mark this word ‘manufacturers’—on the other hand that the TV sets would be sold at the fixed prices—Rs. 7500 or Rs. 8000 or something like that, Rs. 7500 for one kind, viz, with turret tuner, and Rs. 8000 for another kind, viz, with electronic tuner. The kits were distributed to the manufacturers. They manufactured the TV sets and they sold them also in the market through the dealers. We received complaints from

some of the purchasers and we investigated into the allegations which were levelled against the dealers, not manufacturers, and we found that in a very ingenious manner this condition was not observed by the dealers. They sold the set at a particular price which was fixed, but they had said that for warranty of an extended period they would charge something more than what was really allowed. They charged about Rs. 1000 in some cases, and about Rs. 1500 in some other cases for the extended warranty period. Here, probably they had taken advice from those who are well-versed in matters relating to law and all those things and they had overcome the conditions which were given there. For extended period, they would be charging service charge for the sets. Otherwise, they were just collecting the prices which were fixed under the agreement. Here, what is to be realised and understood is that the agreement was between the Government on the one hand and the manufacturer on the other, not between the Government and the dealers. That was our difficulty. We could not have entered into an agreement with the dealers. We entered into an agreement with the manufacturers. We asked the manufacturers that they were bound by the condition and it was necessary for them to see that the sets were sold at the fixed prices in the market. We asked them to take undertakings from the dealers and compel the dealers to sell the sets at the fixed prices. Well, we received the reply from their Association and they said, it was difficult for them to control the entire market. The stand taken by them and by others also was that they could not enter into an agreement with the dealers. Some say, they could not enforce it. The difficulty which was faced by the Government was that the agreement was not binding on the dealers.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : For manufacturers, it is difficult to implement the agreement. But it is easy to loot the public.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : We find that in the agreement, dealer is also included,

SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL : But that agreement was not signed by the dealers. It was an agreement signed by the manufacturers.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : The manufacturers gave an undertaking that they would look after the dealers also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : So, we asked the manufacturers. We could not take action against the dealers. We could take action against the manufacturers.

Now, that is being done here in a very ingenious, or in a very smart manner. Somebody is trying to violate the agreement and somebody is trying to exploit the situation and exploit the consumers.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Everybody is smarter than the Government :

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : So, Sir, what we tried to do was, we informed the manufacturers, that you should have to take action against them and we would also take action against them. We got some answer but it was not really very convincing. Then the consumers also wrote to us. A consumers' organisation filed an application with MRTP Commission and MRTPC is looking into it. Even the MRTP Act has to be examined very carefully so as to see that the action can be taken against them. Otherwise, there is no point in going against them and not getting any orders against them. So, it has to be very carefully seen. We have to see what are the provisions under which an application can be filed with the MRTP authority so as to see that this kind of thing does not happen.

So, the matter is now pending with the MRTP authority and they are investigating into it. As a matter of fact, MRTP Commission is a quasi judicial authority and after the judgement is given, action can be taken against them. That is the position.

As far as the Government is concerned, if any action has to be taken, it has to be taken within the four corners of the law.

If it is not taken within the four corners of the law, it can be challenged in the appellate court and it can be set aside. That is one of the points and the Government is accountable to the Members also. Any body can stand up here and say as to how we could take action.

A suggestion was made, why don't you cancel the licences given to the manufacturers. Supposing, we cancel the licences given to the manufacturers without investigating into all these matters, immediately he would go to the court of law and get the order of injunction. And then, the whole scheme of ours will be frustrated.

So, in order not to get frustrated in such matters, we are taking action and we shall take action to see that this thing does not happen. That is one aspect of it. This is legal aspect of it.

But then our anxiety is not only to take action. Our anxiety is to see that these goods are made available at reasonable prices to the consumers.

We are not interested in penalising and, if it is necessary, it is our duty to penalise also and we will do that.

But more than that, our duty is to see that the goods are made available at reasonably acceptable prices to the consumers.

Therefore, we took some steps. The steps that the Government has taken in this respect are to give licences to a number of people and I can give you the number of licences which the Government has given.

In organised sector, the number of letters of intent issued is 174 and the capacity which is expected to be established is 69 lakhs.

We waited on them for some time to turn these letters of intent into licences and to start production. They did not do that. We did not wait further. We said that we would cancel their letters of intent and then we cancelled them.

32 letters of intent were cancelled and the capacity under these 32 licences of letters of intent was 20 lakhs.

The industrial licences issued were 42 and the capacity established is 7 lakhs. (Interruptions)

Units reported for production is only 15 and the capacity established is 6.5 lakhs.

For small-scale units, approvals were given to as many as 794 small-scale industries. After waiting for a pretty long time, 149 approvals were cancelled. Units reported for production is hardly 60.

So, what we are trying is to allow as many people as are interested in production, to produce these goods so that they are available in the market and the market turns into a buyers market from the sellers market.

But this has not happened. The manufacturers told us that the material and the components and the capital goods which are required for this purpose are to be imported from outside and they have to pay very huge Customs duty on these articles. What did we do again? We reduced duties also.

I am giving the details of our action step by step. First, we allowed the import of the sets. Then we allowed the import of the kits. Then we gave the licences and removed the upper limit. We gave them the concessions in the Customs duties and our intention was that the prices should come down.

If the prices do not come down even after this, we shall have to take some administrative measures to see that the prices come down. What administrative measures can be taken, will be decided at an appropriate time by the Government.

We as a Government have a duty towards the consumers as well as we as a Government have a duty towards the industry also. Because the interest of both the consumers and industry have to be protected. We have to protect and balance the interests of the two. What we have to do

as a Government is the "social engineering" as they call it, and in doing it, some time is taken. Some people try to be very smart and try to hoodwink and try to take undue advantage. We have not said that the people have not taken undue advantage. We have said that the people have taken undue advantage. And whatever can be done by the Department within the framework of the law and within the ambit of administrative powers available to us, we have done and we will do it.

We do not disagree with you when you say that some people have not brought down the prices. We shall try to see that the prices will come down and, for your information, I would like to say that from our Corporations and others, we have taken such steps as to make the TV sets available at Rs 5,600 also.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Where ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Any number of TV sets that you want, I can give you; you may come tomorrow morning and I will give the TV sets from our Corporation ... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : What about other places? You are bothered only about Delhi.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : At other places also we will do. What I am saying is this. If you want any number of colour TVs, they can be given. I have told them that, if any Member of Parliament wants or if any outsider wants, it should be readily available. My intention in telling you is this. We have taken steps to see that the prices come down. Our intention is to see that the prices come down and the consumers do not suffer. But at the same time we are not saying that some people have not acted smartly in this matter. They have. Some people have tried their best to reduce the prices, and some manufactures of TV have really reduced the prices. We cannot forget that thing also. And if some people have acted smartly, we will not neglect to proceed against them.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion. Now only questions. Mr. Ajoy Biswas. Put your question only. This is Half-an Hour Discussion.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS (Tripura West) : What is the priority for the country ? Is it drinking water or is it colour TV ? Evidently, it is drinking water.

The Government gave concessions to the TV manufacturers in the last Budget, but the manufacturers have not passed on the duty concession granted to them to the consumers. That is the problem. Government assured on the floor of Parliament that they would provide colour TV at a cost of Rs. 5,500/-, and the Chairman, ETTDC, also said that they would be able to provide colour TV of 20 inches size in the Delhi market for Rs. 5,500/-.....

MR. CHAIRMAN : Come to your question.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : My question is this. In the course of his reply the hon. Minister has said that the Government have no control over the dealers because they have entered into agreement with manufacturers only. But the manufacturers have control over the dealers, and it is the dealers who do this. So, it is clear that there is a breach of contract on the part of the manufacturers. My question is this. What is the cost per kit supplied by the ETTDC to the manufacturers ? I also want to know whether Government have made any assessment about the cost of assembly of the parts of colour TV by the manufacturers, whether the Corporation has committed itself to provide complete kits for three lakh sets in the current year to the manufacturers, whether the Government have placed bulk orders for import of colour TV tubes on a number of manufacturers of West Germany, France and Korea, whether the manufacturers are reluctant to offtake the colour TV tubes from the Corporation and huge colour TV

18.00 hrs.

tubes lying in the ET & T warehouse because they are not off taken to maintain the market. Whether it is a fact or not ?

My last question is whether the Government have decided to import colour TV

kits from abroad and what is the total amount of foreign exchange involved by this import ?

MR. CHAIRMAN ; Really speaking only one question is allowed. So please be brief.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : I shall be very brief Sir. I will take only two or three minutes.

If you go to different places of our country, you will see that the public places are flooded with the advertisement of the TV manufacturers. You will sometimes see that the advertisements are more good-looking than the programmes broadcast by the TV centres ?

Sir, at present almost the whole country is well set for a TV net work. Therefore, the demand for TV sets have also gone up. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether they have studied in depth the market position of our country and what is the estimated monthly demand of the colour TV sets in our country. At the same time, what is the capacity of the manufacturers of country to produce the TV sets on a monthly basis. Our market price is dependent upon the demand and supply theory at least in our country. Therefore, we must study the demand and supply question of TV sets. I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether they have studied this or not.

Secondly Sir, Government should look after the quality of the TV sets. Whether they have got any machinery to look into this question or not, I want to know. I would also like to know whether the quality of different colour TV sets are guaranteed or not. Some sort of monitoring cell should be there to look to these matters. Whether Government have set up these cells or not, I want to know.

Lastly, think of the poor villagers of our country. They should have some opportunity for viewing the TV programmes. They have no purchasing power. In the earlier days when radio was introduced, there were some community kits. Sir, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether they have gone to the

question of community viewing of TV schemes in our country. For this scheme, the Central Government may contribute 50% and State Government will contribute the other 50%, in that process they can do it. I want to know whether they have gone to this question or not.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Certainly the TV media is very popular. It depicts the heart and culture of us and educates the children, agriculturists.

The Hon'ble Minister has replied in the original question that the manufacturers have been given all facilities, like issuing industrial approval liberally and reduction of customs duty as well as excise duty. So, at the cost of the revenue and the public exchequer, the manufacturers are manufacturing these colour TV sets. The Hon'ble Minister has replied that there is agreement between the Government and manufacturers, but not with the dealer and so the Government is helpless. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is vicarious liability or not. The manufacturers have appointed the dealers. So, if any illegality is committed by the dealer who is an agent of the manufacturer, both the manufacturer and the dealer are responsible. It is not that the Government is helpless and the manufacturer can hoodwink the government and at the cost of the revenue and public exchequer.

Secondly, it seems that a high-power committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Electronics Department. What is the report of that committee? As stated, is the Government think of producing a colour TV set which should be within the reach of the common man and having quality test. Mere cost would not do because spurious parts may be used to produce a cheaper set. So two things are necessary—quality as well as cost. It should be of the best quality and the cost also should be cheaper and within the reach of the common man.

Thirdly, the hon. Minister has stated that the law is wanting. If the law is wanting, cannot the Government get the will to frame a new law? So it is not that the Government is

helpless and the manufacturers are getting all the advantages at the cost of the public. The intention of the Government is that the media should work for the benefit of the commonman.

As such, may I request the Minister to reply what specific steps is he going to take in this connection?

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsore) : Kits were imported for manufacturing color TV sets. May I know from the hon. Minister how many such kits were supplied to the manufacturers to manufacturing colour TV sets?

It is a fact that it has been brought to the notice of the Government that a large number of such imported kits are sold in black market; if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Is it also a fact that the price of colour TV sets abroad has come down by 15% and for which, as my hon. colleague, Mr Somnath Rath has said, the Government thought of cutting down the duty on imported components used for black and white as well as colour TV sets? So when the manufacturer and also the dealer are not showing any interest and are trying to hoodwink the Government and are not carrying out the wishes of the Government, would the Government think of importing color TV sets? If so, I want to know when the colour TV sets will be available and what would be the price in the open market of the colour TV set imported?

The Trade and Technology Corporation is going to produce the kits for colour TV sets. This Electronic Corporation is a public sector undertaking. So, may I know how many kits would be produced by this Corporation annually and what would be the demand of the country? Whether the indigenous production of colour TV kits will be sufficient so that we are not required to import such kits from abroad? What would be the demand of such kits by the end of Seventh Five Year Plan period? Whether it is a fact that the Government is thinking to import colour T.V. sets and the manufacturers are objecting to it? If so, what are the reasons? The actual licence

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holders who are manufacturing these colour T.V sets are telling that they can produce one lakh sets per month whereas in the month of January they produced only 50,000 sets. So, may I know what would be the demand of the country of colour T.V. sets within the next two-three years and what will be the production by the manufactures to whom the licences have been issued.

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Sir, I want to seek a clarification. It is quite obvious that Governn ent failed to curb rise in TV prices. I would like to ask the hon. Minister why the Minister has not written a letter to the MRTP Commission ? Secondly you have distributed some of the imported sets. Can the Minister say have they been distributed properly and at the rate fixed by them as they are they actual manufacturers and not the dealers?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, I have about thirty questions with me. The first question was about the priority of the Government of India. It is a big question. I may take some time to explain what is the priority of the Government of India but the time will not be available to me. So, very briefly I would like say that the priority of the Government of India is education, health, agriculture, industry and then other priorities come. You probably know that even before we became Independent the emphasis was laid on education and TV is one of the means of education. In the other House we have passed a Bill empowering the Government to start open University and the TV sets will be used not only to entertain the people but also to educate them. The TV will be the media which will help the country to integrate. A man sitting in Kerala will be able to see what is the landscape in Assam and what kind of culture is there ; what kind of people live there even without going there. That will help in national integration. In the modern ago TV has become a source of information. We are informing the agriculturist by showing so many agricultural programmes on T.V. We are informing the artisans by showing the programmes on T.V. So, T.V. is not a means of enter-

tainment alone. TV. has become a very. Very powerful instrument of informal education—education which will be available not only to the children but also to the adults and from that point of view, I would say that we would not object to introducing TV on an increasing scale in the country.

Now, I was asked what will be the cost of kits and what was the cost of kits that were supplied ? Now, the cost of kits that were supplied was Rs. 3650/-. The question was asked as to whether the Corporation is going to produce de luxe model. Well, it depends on the need and requirement and demand of those things. The models which are cheap will be produced. The models which may be sold at higher prices may also be produced. But for your information and for the information of the hon Members, I would like to say that E T. & T. has produced a model which is available for Rs. 1200 also It is a black and white small set which is available and you can ask me for it and we can give you that set tomorrow or within a day or two. So, the point I was trying to make was that we have brought down the prices of the TV sets. The black and white TV set is available for Rs. 1200 only.

A question was asked whether the bulk orders are given for the kits and the TV tubes. When you purchase the tubes in bulk through the Corporations, they are available at prices which are acceptable to the manufacturers, we are purchasing them in bulk and we are giving them to the manufacturers so that in that also there can be a reduction of prices. Then, the question was asked as to whether the manufacturers are reluctant to take the TV tubes. There was a time, about 1-1/2 years or 2 years ago, there was some sort of reluctance. But at present as far as my information goes, there is no reluctance to take the TV tubes. Now, for the question as to what was the foreign exchange involved, it is a very difficult question. I am not in a position to tell you what actually will be foreign exchange involved in this. It is in proportion to the demand and supply. But the exact amount is not readily available. I will not be able to give that information now. I have to

collect it from the Commerce Ministry and other Departments.

Now, a very good question was asked as to what the market position in the country is. I should say that there are differing information given to us. The consumers' stand is that the TV sets are not easily available in the market at acceptable prices. The manufacturers' stand is that the market is flooded with the TV sets and the Government of India's stand is that TVs are available in the market but the market is not flooded with TVs and I think because TV sets are not available in abundance, the prices are at a little higher level. They will be available and we shall have to produce them more so that they are available in the market and for that production is to be stepped up.

Now, a question was asked as to what the demand of the TV sets is. This is a question for which some exercise has been done, but I must admit that the differing figures are given to me by the Department and by others and regarding some of the figures I am myself not very much convinced. They say that it is in the vicinity of 4 million sets by the end of 1990. According to me, because of the fact that the satellite is available, the high-power and low-power transmitters have been set up and people living in the rural areas and villages are also wanting to have TV sets, the demand is going to be much more than that.

I would not be in a position to give exact scientific figures as to the demand, but the official figure which is given in the vicinity of 4 million sets by the end of 1990.

I do agree that it is not enough to see that the prices of the TV sets are reduced, but at the same time, it would also be necessary to see that quality sets are produced. If the TV sets are produced on a large scale, and if they are taken to the far away places, where the maintenance facilities are not easily available and if they do not work properly, people are likely to get frustrated and disappointed. Our

attempt is to see that the quality is maintained, and to do that, we have provided certain organisations at four or five different places in the country on a large scale. At the same time, the manufacturers are also asked to have some quality control equipments so that they test the TV sets with those equipments and ensure that better quality sets are available to the people. We are attempting to see that quality control is maintained properly. But I am not going to give any false hopes to the House. This is an industry which is coming up and this is an industry to which a very great boost has been given because of satellite in the outer space and because of the facilities of low-power and high-power transmitters which we have provided. That is why the demand has gone up; the manufacturing capacity is being established and we are in the processing of establishing this industry and we will pay full attention to the quality also.

A very good question was asked, "The people in the villages would like to see the television, is the Government was going to provide sets to them." On the one hand, I have a question about our priority, and on the other hand, whether we were going to provide TV sets to the villages. Certainly, we are trying to provide sets to the villages also. The Government has decided to provide certain community TV sets to the people in the villages. It is a small number, but we are providing these sets. We have also asked the State Governments to provide TV sets and certain State Governments have accepted to provide TV sets to the Gram Panchayats and societies in the villages, so that people can take advantage of that. As I have informed this august House, the prices have come down to Rs. 1200 per set and this is a price which can certainly be acceptable to the middle class people coming from the villages. This kind of sets will be available and our attempt would be to see that something more substantial is done in this respect also.

I was told that there was a vicarious liability on all those things. I find it very difficult to understand the principle of

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

vicarious responsibility and all that. The principle of vicarious liability is available under torts and not under civil law. But these are legal matters on which I would not argue on the floor of this House, whether the vicarious liability is there and whether we can file a suit against them. These are legal matters

There is a High Power Committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department and this Committee meets and takes account of the production, distribution and pricing of the TV sets. Attempts are being made by this Committee to see that at reasonable and acceptable prices the TV sets are sold. I think, the Committee has been successful in seeing that the prices are brought down, but we are not fully satisfied with the coming down of the prices; still more attempts would certainly be made by us. A question was asked about cheap TV and I have answered, I have informed the members about the quality aspect also.

Then a question was asked whether we are going to bring a new legislation for controlling the manufacturers. You all know as to how much time it takes to frame a Bill, to bring it here, to pass it here and then send it to the other House. We would like to make use of the existing laws and rules. If it is absolutely necessary to change some law and if that issue becomes so big, then the question of changing or modifying a law arises. We do not think that that is the position now. We would like to use other methods of producing more TV sets. This, we have already done by removing the upper limit on production and producing TV sets on a large scale.

About the kits also, I have already informed the House that 89,466 kits were given at the time of Asiad. At that time there were some complaints that the kits were sold in the black market. But at this time, i.e. at present, there are no complaints about the kits being sold in the black market because they are easily available.

Regarding the question as to whether the duties would be reduced or not, I have

already informed this hon. House that we have given concessions in the Customs duty on a very large scale. Customs duty on capital goods, on the components and on the material has been reduced. So, without consulting the Government I am not in a position to answer whether it can be done. As things stand today, it is rather difficult for us to give more concessions because we have already given them, as far as the duties are concerned, I think the duties were reduced by about 40 per cent. Just think of it! We attempted to see that the prices also come down by 40 per cent and I am happy to inform that the prices have come down, though not exactly by 40 per cent, to near about 40 per cent and that is really helpful.

A question was asked whether Government would import the TV. When it was necessary, we did import the TV. But I have outlined what the policy of the Government is, First we imported the TV, then we imported the kits and now we are trying to manufacture the TV sets here. So, our emphasis would be on manufacturing the TV sets in the country and not on importing them.

A question was asked as to what would be the price of the imported TV. Well, it is very difficult to say exactly what the imported TV's price would be. It depends on the model and so many other things.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : What about the production of TV sets by ETTDC ?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I think ETTDC is not a kit producing organisation. It is a trading organisation. It gets the kits and gives them to the traders.

Regarding capacity, we have some capacity established and our intention would be to establish more and help the country.

16.28 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 19, 1985 |
Savana 28, 1907 (Saka)*