

STATES UNDER DEBT

TABLE-II

(AS ON END-MARCH, 2004)

S.No	States	Total Debt. (Rs. Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	57,574
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,118
3.	Assam	15,043
4.	Bihar	49,882
5.	Goa	3,449
6.	Gujarat	55,318
7.	Haryana	19,712
8.	Himanchal Pradesh	13,035
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	11,916
10.	Karnataka	38,091
11.	Kerala	33,708
12.	Madhya Pradesh	40,888
13.	Maharashtra	71,759
14.	Manipur	2,463
15.	Meghalaya	1,737
16.	Mizoram	1,793
17.	Nagaland	2,904
18.	Orissa	33,756
19.	Punjab	42,057
20.	Rajasthan	48,714
21.	Sikkim	908
22.	Tamil Nadu	44,834
23.	Tripura	3,831
24.	Uttar Pradesh	104,079
25.	West Bengal	79,575
26.	NCT Delhi	13,254

Total 791,400*Source: RBI- Handbook of Statistics on States"
Finance in 2004*

petuating adhocism is seen, which is in the interest of beneficiary members. All that is required to make any change (read, upward revision) is the recommendation of a joint committee of both the Houses of Parliament. The approval of Parliament has always been a mere formality, without exception. While there has never been a consensus among different political hues on

36,000 including salary, daily allowances etc, of which only the salary of Rs. 12,000 p.m. attracts income-tax and that too, can be easily avoided by some savings in approved Government schemes. MPs' pay a nominal license fee for accommodation in Delhi, which is but a tiny fraction of their market rental value.

Taking into account, the mone-

the issues affecting the welfare of the common man, there is absolute unanimity among all the political parties on this issue, be it the Left, Right or the Centre. No wonder, their salaries and allowances have gone up 90 times during the last 50 years! A mockery of democracy, isn't it?

This not only violates the canons of financial propriety, but also a basic dictum of administrative law, that the acceptance of necessity that requires an outgo from the Treasury, is to be examined and approved by an authority other than the body likely to be affected by such decisions. This is nothing but improper usurping of the powers of the authority by the beneficiaries themselves. There is perhaps no parallel to this hijacking of parliamentary democracy anywhere in the world!

A look at the annexures will indicate that the Government pays (in cash every month) to a Member about Rs.