

visiting these centres in Kerala during the last 3 years are not available.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). Development of tourism is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to States based on specific proposals received from them, subject to their merit, availability of funds and undersea priorities. The Government of Kerala have not sent any proposal in this regard.

Credit Deposit Ratio in Eastern Region

9347. SHRI SUDARSAN
RAYCHAUDHURI:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the credit-deposit ratio of commercial banks is low in the Eastern region of the country in general and in West Bengal in particular;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the issue in depth; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to upgrade it to the national average?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). The credit: deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks in West Bengal and in the Eastern Region as a whole as at the end of December, 1989 were relatively lower than the C:D ratio at all India level. However, the C:D ratios have shown an increasing trend in West Bengal and in the Eastern Region as compared to the position at the end of December, 1987.

The State Level Bankers' Committee for respective States, consisting of representatives of banks, State Government, NABARD and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), monitors the C:D ratios in these States. With a view to improving the flow of credit, the State Authorities were advised by the Reserve Bank of India to prepare bankable schemes. The banks were also advised that while preparing District credit Plans and Annual Action Plans under the newly introduced strategy of Service Area Approach, their endeavour should be to increase the flow of bank credit in deficient areas by formulating new bankable schemes, so that regional imbalances can be corrected.

Import Policy for Almonds

9348. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have amended the import policy of almonds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a suggestion has been received that the import licences for the import of almonds should be granted to the actual importers of almonds; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior to 27.7.88, import of almond was permitted as an item of dry fruits by established dealers against their normal dry fruits licences. With effect from 27.7.88, each dry fruit licensee was permitted the import of almonds upto a value of Rs. 20,000 against a specific licence to be issued to him for this purpose. Simultaneously, the holders of additional licences were also permitted the import of almonds to the extent of 5%, within