

Approval has also been accorded to M/s. Continental Grain Company to establish a wholly owned subsidiary in India for trading and export of agricultural commodities with foreign equity participation amounting to US \$ 1 to 2 million.

[English]

Unviable Branches Of Public Sector Banks

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to close down the unviable loss-making branches of the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the number and details of the branches identified so far for closure:

(c) whether the bank employees have decided to give a nation-wide strike call to protest against such closure of bank branches;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that bank branches which have been chronically incurring losses and are unlikely to improve their financial position are to be converted by the banks concerned either into 'recovery' branches or closed down. The number of such branches is 102. Bank-wise details of such branches are given below:-

STATEMENT

No Of Branches In Urban/Metropolitan Areas

Sl. No. Name of Bank

1.	Andhra Bank	3
2.	Bank of Baroda	4
3.	Bank of India 1	2
4.	Central Bank of India	10
5.	Dena Bank	1
6.	Indian Overseas Bank	11
7.	Punjab and Sind Bank	5
8.	Syndicate Bank	11
9.	United Bank Of India	25
10.	UCO Bank	20
		102

(c) Neither Government nor the Indian Banks' Association have received any such notice.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

NTC Units

*332. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR
MANDAL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government and the National Textile Corporation have considered the report of the expert committee to revive and modernise the ailing Textile units of NTC ;

(b) if so, whether the modernisation, amalgamation and closure plan envisaging winding up of NTC units and rendering thousands of workers jobless has been approved ;

(c) whether any representations have been received by the Government opposing the unilateral acceptance of the report of the expert committee by the Government ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) . Four Textile Research Associations namely AT IRA, SITRA, BTRA AND NITRA have, on the directions of the Ministry of Textiles prepared fresh modernisation plans for the revival of NTC and submitted them to the Sub-Committee of the Special committee

on NTC. The Sup-Committee has not yet submitted its report to the Special Committee.

[Translation]

Capital Formation

*333. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the steps taken to mobilise capital formation have proved fruitful ;

(b) if so, the achievements made in this regard ;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to mobilise more capital formation in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) to (d). As per the latest available figures the rate of Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) as measured by its ratio to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current market prices was 22.3 percent in 1991-92. The rate of GFCF was higher in 1991-92 compared with 21.7 percent and 21.6 percent for the years 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively, when the economy showed fairly good growth performance. It also compares with a higher rate of 23.1 percent in GFCF for 1990-91. Similar trends are reflected in the rate of Gross Capital Formation (GCF) measured by its ratio to GDP at current market prices. It was 25.5 percent in 1991-92 compared with 26.3 percent in 1990-91. It is noteworthy that much of the decline in the rate of