

FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) The Average Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) was reduced by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in stages from 15.0 per cent of net demand and time liabilities (DTL) of scheduled commercial banks to 14.0 per cent of net DTL with effect from the fortnight beginning December 9, 1995. The average CRR on Non-Resident (External) (NRE) Rupee deposits was reduced from 14.0 per cent to 10.0 per cent from the fortnight beginning January 6, 1996. The Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) (FCNR(B)) deposits and the Non-Resident Non-Repatriable (NRNR) deposits were fully exempted from CRR stipulations from the fortnight beginning January 6, 1996.

The reduction in the CRR was undertaken in the context of monetary and credit developments and the need to augment the resources of banks. The relaxation of reserve requirements on non-resident deposits was undertaken taking into account the cost of raising these resources and the return on the deployment of these funds as well as to make these deposits more attractive to banks and enable banks to better market these deposits.

Branches of Syndicate Bank

613. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the location-wise branches of Syndicate Bank of Gujarat and the category-wise number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employed in these branches;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more branches of this bank in the State during 1996-97;

(c) if so, the proposed locations thereof; and

(d) the measures being taken to fill up the vacant posts reserved for scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) Syndicate Bank has furnished the details of their branches in Gujarat and the number of employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in those branches as indicated below :

District	No. of Branches	No. of employees belonging to:	
		Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
1	2	3	4
Ahmedabad	13	103	27
Bhavnagar	1	5	-
Broach	1	3	2
Bulsar	2	5	17
Gandhinagar	1	7	3

1	2	3	4
Jamnagar	2	6	1
Junagad	2	4	5
Kheda	4	12	5
Kutch	2	6	4
Mehsana	4	19	2
Rajkot	4	9	7
Surat	7	14	50
Surendranagar	1	4	2
Vadodara	3	12	3
Total	47	209	128

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in terms of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Syndicate Bank, it is allowed to open branches with prior approval of RBI in cases where the proposed branch is expected to earn net profit in the first year of operation itself. The bank has not submitted any proposal to RBI recently for opening of a branch in Gujarat.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to fill up the reserved vacancies for SCs and STs public sector banks and Financial Institutions have been as under :-

1. Special recruitment drives have been carried out during the years 1989, 1990, 1992, 1993-94 and 1995 and a substantial backlog has been cleared;
2. The recruitment and representation position of SCs and STs in the Public Sector Banks is being reviewed through a comprehensive proforma by the Boards of Directors of each of the public sector bank every six months and the position is being reported to the Government;
3. Pre-recruitment training is being imparted by all banks to the candidates appearing for the BSRB examinations;
4. Establishment of Centres for examination nearest to the areas of concentration of the ST population; and
5. Banks have been advised to hold training workshops for the personnel working in their SC/ST cells to make them fully aware of the need for implementation of the reservation policy.

Price Index

614. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the CPI and WPI as on the first relevant date in the first week of April, 1991 and the corresponding

figures for the corresponding date in 1995 and in the first week of January, 1996;

(b) the overall inflation over the intervening period of four years 1991-95 and estimated for the 5 years period 1991-96, both in terms of CPI and WPI;

(c) the purchasing power of the rupee with 1981 as the base on each of these three dates, with percentage rise or decline during 1991-95 and estimated for 1991-96;

(d) whether the Government have any abstantive steps under consideration to reduce the rate of inflation to zero in the future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) is constructed and announced on monthly basis, whereas Wholesale Price Index is announced on weekly basis. Consumer Price Index as on April 1991 and 1995 and first week of January 1996, are listed below :

Year	Month	Index	
		CPI	WPI
1991	April	202	192.3
1995	April	295	286.8
1996	January	N.A.	207.9

(b) and (c) The annual inflation rate (point-to-point) both in terms of CPI-IW and WPI from 1991-92 to 1995-96 and the purchasing power of rupee as measured in terms of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers with base 1982 for these years is shown below :

	Annual inflation rate (%)		Purchasing power of rupee (Paise)
	CPI-IW	WPI	
1991-92	13.9	13.6	45.66
1992-93	6.1	7.0	41.67
1993-94	9.9	10.8	38.76
1994-95	9.7	10.4	35.84
1995-96	9.7 *	4.4 **	31.55 *

* December 1995; **as on 10.2.96.

(d) and (e) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to contain the inflationary pressures in the economy, and the latest inflation rate of 4.4% recorded as on 10 February, 1996 is indicative of the success achieved in the current fiscal year.

Single Window Payment of Airport Taxes

615. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a "Single Window Payment of Airport Taxes" system for overseas air passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Passengers embarking from India have to pay Foreign travel tax which is collected at a Single point of at the departing airports.

11.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Wednesday, March 6, 1996/
Phalgun 16, 1917 (Saka)*