

[English]

Gujarat

Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief Scheme

*377. **SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Gujarat to extend the benefit of Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme to those SCs/STs who had taken loans from nationalised banks;

(b) whether the Government propose to extend the period for repayment of loan granted to the State Government under the Scheme;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) A request was received from the Government of Gujarat in September, 1990 that the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme may be extended to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes who have taken loans from State Government agencies like the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations, Backward Classes Boards, etc. The ARDR Scheme was formulated by the Government of India for providing debt relief to farmers, artisans and weavers who have taken loans from Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks only. The State Governments have formulated similar schemes for cooperative banks. Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes borrowers who are farmers, weavers and artisans are eligible for debt relief under the scheme.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Government do not propose to make any changes in the scheme.

Per Capita External Debt

*378. **SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA** } : Will
DR. A. K. PATEL }

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the per capita external debt of the Union Government at the end of 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : The per capita external debt on Government Account and IMF borrowings at the end of 1988-89, 1989-90 & 1990-91 is estimated to be Rs. 618, Rs. 683 and Rs. 835 respectively. Information as on date is not available as the accounts for the period are yet to close.

32 Government Employee
Involvement of Customs Officials in Smuggling

*379. **SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI** } : Will
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI }

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the officers/staff of the Customs Houses and Central Excise Collectorates found responsible for aiding and abetting the smuggling activities during 1990 and January-July, 1991;

(b) the action taken against such employees/officers; and

(c) the details of the cases pending finalisation and steps taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Available reports indicate that 19 personnel of the Customs Houses and Central Excise Collectorates, as per details in the table below, have been allegedly found to be involved in smuggling activities during the calendar years 1990 and 1991 (up to 31 st July, 1991).

Year	Group B	Group C	Total
1990 . . .	2	9	11
1991 . . . (upto 31-7-91)	2	6	8
	4	15	19

(b) Departmental action under the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965 and/or prosecution in the Courts of Law have been initiated against these personnel.

(c) All these cases are at various stages of enquiry/investigation/prosecution. Pending proceedings are being expedited by close monitoring for early finalisation thereof.

33 Conveyance Allowance to Central Government Employees

380. SHRI JEEVAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is an Arbitration award for sanction of a certain amount of conveyance allowance to Central Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in the matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Board of Arbitration has given the Award that the non-gazetted Central Government employees except those who actually enjoy the benefit of free or subsidised transport facility for travel between their residence and place of duty or are in receipt of Conveyance Allowance for that purpose, shall be given a transport subsidy of Rs. 30 (Rupees thirty only) per employee per month. This award was to take effect on and from the 1st day of April, 1989.

(c) The Award was considered by the Government. It was estimated that the implementation of the Award would entail an expenditure of Rs. 176 crores per annum. In the context of need for exercising utmost economy

in the Government spending, a recurring expenditure of this size will impose additional burden on the exchequer, which would adversely affect the National economy. It was, therefore, decided to reject the award. A statement to this effect was laid on the Table of the House on the 31st August, 1990. A Resolution to reject the Award will be moved in the House as early as possible, as per the prescribed procedure.

34 Ranking of Indian Banks in World

*381. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Indian banks are among the top one thousand banks in the world;

(b) if so, the names of these banks;

(c) the criteria adopted for ranking these banks in the top list;

(d) whether the Government propose to take some steps to ensure that other banks also come up to this level;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the following eight Indian banks figure among the top 1000 banks in the world as per information published in "The Banker" a Financial Times publication, in their July, 1991 issue :—

1. Industrial Development Bank of India
2. State Bank of India
3. Canara Bank
4. Bank of India
5. Export Import Bank of India
6. Punjab National Bank
7. Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank
8. Bank of Baroda