

are as under :

Loan as multiple of accumulated savings	Amount of Loan	Rate of Interest
(i) 4 times	Upto Rs. 50,000/-	10.5%
(ii) 3 times	Above Rs. 50,000/- and upto Rs. 1 lakh	12.0%
(iii) 2 times	Above Rs. 1 lakh and upto Rs. 2 lakh	13.5%
(iv) 1.5 times	Above Rs. 2 lakhs	14.5%

NHB has further reported that under the HLAS the designated banks and HFCs have collected an amount of Rs. 365.86 crores upto the end of March, 1996, out of which an amount of Rs. 28.56 crores has been utilised by the implementing agencies so far.

(c) and (d). NHB has reported that there is no proposal at present to reduce the rates of interest on refinance by it.

(e) The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been permitted by Reserve Bank of India to lend for housing activities in the rural areas upto 5% of their incremental deposits subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh per borrower. In consultation with Reserve Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, NHB has initiated the formulation of a scheme to refinance RRBs in this regard.

Cheating of Bank

4369. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "CBI arrests four for cheating bank" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 5, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether handwriting expert confirmed the bogus signatures on drawee bills, hundis and other bills;

(d) if so, the reasons as to why the bank officials failed in verifying the genuineness of signatures before clearing those documents and the action taken by the Authorities for the lapses; and

(e) whether the Government propose to ask the R.B.I. to collect the information of frauds etc. from the private sector banks also, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) have reported that a case was registered by them on 23.5.1994 on the allegations that a fraud was committed by the Directors of M/s. R.K.B. Herbals P.Ltd., New Delhi in conspiracy with the Branch

Manager of Vijaya Bank, R.K. Puram, New Delhi cheating the bank to the tune of Rs. 87 lakhs during the period 1987-1990 on the strength of bogus documents. CBI has also reported that the signatures appearing on the bogus hundies and invoices did not belong to any account holders whose specimen signatures are kept by the bank for verification. The three Directors of the company and the Branch Manager were arrested on 4.12.1996 and the CBI propose to file charge-sheets for their prosecution in Court. The bank has conducted its own investigation into the matter and fixed-accountability on 7 officials of the bank and initiated departmental action against them.

(e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that frauds in banks for less than Rs. 1.00 crore are monitored by their regional offices while the frauds of Rs. 1.00 crore and above are monitored by Central Office of Department of Supervision of RBI. For cases of frauds of less than Rs. 1.00 crore, no statement/information regarding action taken against delinquent staff is obtained from private sector and foreign banks. However, these banks have clear instructions to report all cases of frauds of above Rs. 10,000/- to Police.

Patent Right

4370. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a WTO Committee is likely to visit India to investigate the charges of violation of Intellectual Property Rights;

(b) if so, the details of charges made against India;

(c) the Government views on intellectual property rights in India; and

(d) the stand likely to be taken by the Government relating to patent-issues during the probe by the WTO Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No Committee of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is to visit India to investigate the charges of violation of intellectual property rights.

However, in pursuance of the provisions of Article 4 of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (DSU) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Article 64 of the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, on 2 July, 1996, the Government of the United States of America had sought consultations with India alleging the absence in India of either patent protection for pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products or formal systems that permit the filing of patent applications for such products and that permit the grant of exclusive marketing rights in such products. The consultations were held on 27 July, 1996. The DSU provides that the complaining party may request the