

by these banks and financial institutions to the private wholesalers in order to leave them to carry on their business by mobilising their own resources;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The commercial banks advance loans for the purchase of essential commodities as well as for financing operation of wholesale traders. The following table gives the outstanding advances of the Banks against the selected essential commodities like foodgrains, sugar, major oil seeds, etc. for the last 3 years : -

	Amount (Rs. in crores)
March, 1988	1,722
March, 1989	2,128
March, 1990	2,424
February, 1991 (latest available)	2,400

The other public financial institutions do not advance loans for trading in essential commodities.

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) Does not arise

[English]

Sericulture Production

*118. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to strengthen the basic infrastructure so as to increase the sericulture production:

(b) how these steps would protect the interest of small, marginal and landless agricultural labourers; and

(c) the number and type of projects being implemented in West Bengal alongwith their financial outlay and output achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments for development of sericulture in the country, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has taken steps to set up a country-wide network of Units for providing R&D, Extension, Training and Infra-structural support to the industry. As a result of the steps taken, the silk recovery has improved resulting in higher economic returns to the farmer. Besides, the following schemes are being implemented for assisting small, marginal and landless farmers :—

(a) Supply of mulberry cuttings/saplings at 50% cost.

(b) Free supply of rearing equipments to marginal farmers.

(c) Supply of nylon nets for Uzifly control at 50% cost.

- (d) Incentive Bonus to Bivoltine Silkworm rearers and reelers.
- (e) Arranging farmers study tour.
- (f) Establishment of mulberry demonstration farm at farmers field at CSB cost.
- (g) Working capital assistance to the reelers at subsidised interest for purchase of cocoons.
- (h) Arranging marketing and transportation facilities to the rearers for disposal of cocoons at reeling centres.
- (c) The details of sericulture projects being implemented at present in West Bengal are as under :—

NATIONAL SERICULTURE PROJECT (MULBERRY)

Period	5 Years (1989-90 to 1994-95)
Outlay (Rs. Lakhs)	4.989 00
Expenditure (Rs. Lakhs)	286.89 (1989-90 & 90-91)

National Sericulture Project

Under CSB component of National Sericulture Project (NSP) in West Bengal, one P4 Farm, one P3 Farm, two P2 Farms, three Grainages, fourteen Technical Service Centres and one Demonstration-cum-Training Centre have been established so far. Besides, assistance to 102 Chawkie Rearing Centres have also been done. These Units have started functioning recently.

Use of IAF Aircraft for Electioneering Purpose

*120. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hours IAF aircraft and helicopters were used by the former Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister for electioneering purposes during the recent general elections ?

(b) the total amount that has become due for payment to the IAF on account of use of its aircraft and helicopters ;

(c) whether the amount has since been recovered ;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay, and

(e) the steps to recover the same expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) A total of 1307.10 hours of flying was used by the former Prime Minister for unofficial visits from 2nd April 1991, i.e. the date on which para VII of the Modal Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates issued by the Election Commission came into effect, to 13th June 1991 i.e. the date on which the election campaign came to an end. The