

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Bench of Karnataka High Court at Hubli-Dharwad in accordance with the decision taken by the Government of Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government have also received any proposal from the State Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka is of the view that a permanent Bench of the Karnataka High Court should be established at Hubli-Dharwad. However, the Chief Justice of the High Court has not so far endorsed the proposal. It is the policy of the Government of India that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus. As no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, for establishment of a Bench of the High Court at Hubli-Dharwad, it is not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

Smuggling of Gold & Foreign Currency

593. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the smuggling of gold and foreign currency are on the increase in the country;

(b) the number of cases brought to their notice between January and July this year, so far, alongwith the quantity and value of Gold and Foreign Currency seized;

(c) whether such incidents are more prevalent in Delhi;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Air Customs unit of Indira Gandhi International Airport;

(e) whether any action has been initiated against the persons smuggling gold and foreign currency; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) There is no intelligence indicating increase in smuggling of gold and foreign currency into this country.

(b) 378 Kg of gold valued at Rs. 1844 lakh and foreign currency valued at Rs. 2923 lakhs have been seized from January to July 1997 (Figures are provisional). The exact number of cases detected is being ascertained.

(c) Available reports do not suggest that incidents of smuggling are more prevalent in Delhi.

(d) NIL in view of (c) above.

(e) and (f) The persons found guilty are arrested and prosecuted. In appropriate cases detention of offenders under COFEPOSA is also made.

Infrastructure Development in Border Areas

594. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals for infrastructure development in the border areas from the Government of Mizoram and Manipur are pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof including financial outlays;

(c) the action taken to sanction the proposals during the current financial year;

(d) whether any proposals for the development of infrastructure in the border points of the North-Eastern India along the Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Chinese Border is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays during the Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (e) A proposal received from Government of Mizoram for creation of a border township at Champai is being considered by the Ministry of Home Affairs which is the Nodal Ministry for considering the same.

A proposal has been received from the Government of Mizoram for sanction of Rs. 8.13 crores under the Critical Infrastructure Balance (CIB) Scheme for infrastructure development in Champai-Rih sector along Indo-Myanmar border and this is under consideration in this Ministry.

A number of steps have been taken by this Ministry to facilitate border trade with Myanmar via Moreh in Manipur corresponding to Tamu in Myanmar. The steps taken include banking, customs, immigration and other related trading arrangements.

Based on the recommendation of this Ministry, the Ministry of Home Affairs have agreed to extend the validity for installing the currency chest at Moreh for a period of twelve months.

SIDBI's Loan to Small Scale Industries

595. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the role played by the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in the promotion of Small Scale Industries Sector in the Country; and

(b) the number of units established/provided loan by SIDBI in the States during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The Small

Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been set up to function as the principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of industry in the small scale sector and to coordinate to functions of institutions engaged in similar activities.

In order to fulfill the assigned role, SIDBI implements

a number of scheme for providing financial assistance, extension support and underking promotional aspects of industries in the small scale sector.

(b) The number of units sanctioned financial assistance by SIDBI and amount involved during the last three years, State-wise is given in the attached statement.

Statement

Break-up of State-wise assistance sanctioned by SIDBI during last 3 years*

(Rs. Crore)

1	1994-95		1995-96		1996-97	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amt.	No.	Amt.
	2	3	4	5	6	7
Eastern Region						
Bihar	105	11.93	1143	57.90	1685	92.93
Orissa	812	40.49	1570	71.75	3093	100.29
Sikkim	36	0.65	190	3.97	313	2.57
West Bengal	588	165.84	932	176.38	2203	196.47
Andaman & Nicobar Island	3	0.08	0	0.00	0	0.00
Total	1542	218.99	3835	310.00	7294	392.26
North Eastern Region						
Arunachal Pradesh	9	0.23	92	1.82	99	0.83
Assam	156	3.92	1461	18.74	330	10.10
Manipur	38	0.19	183	2.33	146	2.12
Meghalaya	84	2.14	98	2.12	139	8.64
Mizoram	3	0.10	39	0.45	81	0.94
Nagaland	4	0.03	104	1.13	87	1.42
Tripura	120	1.84	209	3.96	258	4.82
Total	414	8.45	2186	30.55	1140	28.87
Northern Region						
Haryana	1380	251.10	2120	372.24	1838	452.88
Himachal Pradesh	394	15.05	1747	45.08	1133	36.10
Jammu & Kashmir	126	5.41	435	11.47	444	10.88
Punjab	1169	156.95	3084	241.94	2604	190.08
Rajasthan	2061	186.04	2918	259.52	2120	190.15
Uttar Pradesh	1478	250.91	2660	450.93	3661	445.41
Chandigarh	19	3.80	166	13.51	85	9.18
NCT of Delhi	228	515.22	1252	305.40	963	395.27
Total	6855	1384.48	14382	1700.09	12927	1729.95

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Western Region						
Goa	470	36.35	545	45.05	719	85.33
Gujarat	2612	835.63	3978	728.21	3082	169.52
Madhya Pradesh	1284	128.90	2731	198.03	3410	169.53
Maharashtra	9486	666.10	10659	1039.73	9281	1144.08
Dadara & Nagar Haveli	6	1.30	15	5.29	0	6.43
Daman & Diu	31	3.55	15	8.99	11	6.33
Total	13889	1671.83	17943	2025.30	16511	2036.22
Southern Region						
Andhra Pradesh	3202	201.33	5851	301.75	7405	316.82
Karnataka	16569	352.19	15445	574.78	18478	673.26
Kerala	8373	163.91	9146	233.09	11747	320.99
Tamil Nadu	5335	592.22	10183	792.97	10081	894.35
Laksh Dweep	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
Pondy cherry	93	6.87	136	8.13	178	12.00
Total	33572	1316.52	40761	1910.72	47890	2217.42
Total*	56272	4600.27	79107	5976.66	85761	6404.71

*Excludes Line of Credit (LOC) to NSIC, LOC for OTCEI operations, Venture Capital Assistance to Institutions, Assistance to Factoring Companies & Assistance under Promotion and development.

Loan to States

596. SHRI R.B. RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) has asked the Central Government for special economic package;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) the total amount of special Central Assistance allocated/released to D.G.H.C. since its formation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) According to the information received from the Planning Commission, Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council have requested for one time grant of Rs. 60 crores and suitable enhancement under HADP for various development schemes of DGHC particularly covering basic infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Special Central Assistance under hill Area Development Programme is provided for designated hill

areas under which major portions of Darjeeling district are covered. The share of each constituent State under HADP is decided according to the distribution formula. Thus, assistance under HADP cannot be increased for one State without corresponding increases in other States. However, during the Eighth Plan, Rs. 4.67 crores have been made available to the Government of West Bengal during each year of the Plan, thus making available an amount of Rs. 28.35 crores to the Government of West Bengal for Hill areas of Darjeeling, over and above West Bengal's entitlements under HADP. This practise is being continued during IXth Five Year Plan also.

Special problem of Darjeeling Hill Area have been given special consideration by the Planning Commission and therefore, in addition to above, an amount of Rs. 3.117 crore was made available for improvement of water supply in municipal areas of Darjeeling district during 1994-95 and 1995-96. Also, an amount of Rs. 13.04 lakhs was released to Government of West Bengal for Darjeeling hill areas under surveys and study for the following programmes.

(i) Comprehensive survey of current status of the source of pollution and other threats posed to the preservation of the natural lake systems of Senchal and Mirik