

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The vessel M.G. Nicobar is proposed to be deployed for the Haj service during 1992 as it is the only suitable Indian passenger vessel available at present for operating the Haj service. With the withdrawal of this vessel from mainland-Andaman service, it is expected that two vessels M.V. Harshavardhana and M.V. Nacowry (new vessel which is expected to be delivered shortly) will be available for operation on the mainland-Andaman service during April-September 1992. Steps have also been initiated to find long term options for carriage of Haj pilgrims.

#### Cotton Mills in Orissa

1689. SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton mills functioning in Orissa at present;

(b) whether the cotton mills in the State are facing difficulties in getting cotton; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) As per the information available, there were 14 cotton/man-made fibres textile mills (13 spinning and 1 composite) in Orissa as on 31.1.91.

(b) and (c). There is no difficulty regarding availability of cotton. However, some mills are finding it difficult to purchase adequate quantities as prices of cotton has increased during the current year as a result of fall in cotton production due to failure of rains particularly in Central India.

#### Bank Frauds

1690. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:  
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
SHRI RAM TAHAI  
CHOUHARY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of rise in the bank frauds at the end of 1991 as compared to the year 1990, State-wise;

(b) the amount involved in the fraud cases during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have set up any committee to go into the issue in its entirety;

(d) if so, whether the committee has submitted its reports; and

(e) if so, the recommendations of the committee and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the present data maintenance system does not yield State-wise information about number of bank frauds and amount involved therein. RBI has further reported that it has not yet received information about number and amount of frauds detected in commercial banks during October to December 1991. A comparison of bankfrauds at the end of 1990 and 1991 cannot, therefore, be made. However, a comparison of number and amount of frauds for the period January to September, 1990 (1357 frauds involving Rs. 7924.30 lakhs + \$ 7500 + SHS 4597787) and January to September 1991 (1288 frauds involving Rs. 4722.30 lakhs + \$ 8000) shows a declining trend in the number of frauds by 5.08% and in amount by about 40.41%.