

phosphate and bicycle production were mentioned as new prospects for Indian Joint ventures in Vietnam.

World Bank Assistance for Building Construction Industry

4941. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered financial assistance for the building construction industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions of the above offer; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHVAR THAKUR). (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Question does not arise.

Lending to Real Estate Sector by Banks

4942. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed banks to freeze their lending to the real estate sector at levels prevailing on October 9, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) its likely effect on housing problem being faced by the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As part of the credit policy for the second half of 1991-92, banks are required to ensure that effective from October 9, 1991, there is no increase in the credit outstanding to certain sectors which include real estate loans. The underlying objective of the measure is to ensure that speculative activities in certain sectors which include real estate, are not supported by the banking system

(c) Loans provided by banks under the target for housing finance i.e. 1.5 per cent of banks' incremental deposits as on the last reporting Friday of March, 1991 over the corresponding figures of last reporting Friday of March, 1990, are not covered by the restrictions.

Foreign investment

4943. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Export Organisations have represented to the Government that in order to facilitate foreign investment in the country the decision on the investors applications should be made known within a short time frame;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The new industrial policy announced on 24th July, 1991 provides for automatic approval by RBI for direct foreign investment upto 51% foreign equity in high priority industries, if foreign equity covers the foreign exchange requirements for imported capital goods, which must comprise plant and machinery which are new and not second hand. RBI accords approval to foreign investment proposals within a period of 15 days.

Export of Synthetic and Rayon Textiles

4944. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of synthetic and Rayon-textiles has improved during the recent months;

(b) if so, the value of exports in rupees during the months of April-September, 1991; and

(c) the future prospects of exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The exports of synthetic and rayon textiles amounted to Rs. 472 crores in April-September, 91 as compared to Rs. 290 crores during the same period of 1990. At the current rate of exports, the export target of Rs. 825 crores fixed for 1991-92 is likely to be achieved.

Exim Scrips to Shipping Companies

4945. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to

extend the benefits of Exim Scrips to Shipping Companies to enable them to acquire new ships and improve their services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). Presently, Shipping Industry is not entitled to Exim Scrips. However, some representations have been received. These would be considered while reviewing the Imports and Exports Policy, which is a continuous process.

Criteria for Advancing Loans to Industrialists and Agriculturists

4946. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down by the Reserve Bank of India for the grant of loans by the scheduled banks and co-operative banks to industrialists and agriculturists;

(b) whether the cost of agricultural land is assessed very low while giving loans by the co-operative banks and scheduled banks as compared to the industrial sector;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have liberalised the norms for advancing loans to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(e) if so, the details in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The loans and advances are made by banks with the following three basic objectives: (i) to grant advances on sound