

Rural Banks is a continuous process and such locations are decided keeping in view insufficient coverage of area by commercial banks' branches; credit gap in meeting needs of small/marginal farmers and other weaker sections; and the state of cooperative credit structure in the area. At present there is no proposal with the Government to open another Regional Rural Bank in Himachal Pradesh.

Subsidised foodgrains to rural families in Orissa

3768. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons of rural families and the number of districts of Orissa going to be notified from central Scheme of distribution of subsidised foodgrains to rural families in the Integrated Tribal Development Project areas being implemented; and

(b) the details regarding the quantity of wheat, rice and other foodgrains allotted in favour of Orissa ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) In Orissa, Integrated Tribal Development Project areas in 9 districts (3 fully covered and 6 partly covered), with a population of 72.29 lakhs (as per 1981 Census) are expected to benefit from the scheme.

(b) A total quantity of 2095 tonnes of wheat and 1868 tonnes of rice have been issued by the Food Corporation of India to the Government of Orissa as on 12th March, 1986 for distribution under the scheme.

Production of cardamom in Sikkim

3769. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the activities of Cardamom Board set up in Sikkim;

(b) whether production of cardamom has increased and the quality improved with the setting up of the Board in that State;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the production of cardamom at present in that State and its percentage in the production in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Cardamom Board's activities in Sikkim primarily relate to implementation of schemes for improving productivity, quality and marketing of large cardamom .

(b) and (c) The activities of the Cardamom Board are expected to gradually improve quality and production as adoption of modern tillage and crop practises take some time.

(d) Sikkim accounts for 88% of the large cardamom production in India. Rough estimates of current years production is 2900 tonnes.

Expansion of Non-viable textile units in Kerala

3770. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications from non-viable textile units in Kerala for expansion are being turned down by the Ministry of Industry on the ground that they are not located in backward areas;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision not to allow such expansion except in backward areas;

(c) whether this will not lead to industrial units remaining non-viable and sick; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) to (d) As