

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Trade Development Authority has planned to increase export of electronic goods;

(b) if so, whether the Trade Development Authority sought assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in this regard;

(c) if so, the response from UNDP; and

(d) whether steps have been taken to maintain the prices of electronic goods in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has agreed in principle to provide assistance.

(d) Yes, Sir.

**Loss to state due to treating Provident Fund investment as special deposits**

2235. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :  
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the amount mopped by Post Office from Provident Fund is considered as special deposit;

(b) whether the States are entitled to two-thirds of all funds mobilised by the Post Offices;

(c) whether the States have lost several crores of rupees due to this move of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the loss sustained by each State during the past three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) As per the pattern of investment by provident/superannuation/gratuity funds in force upto 31.3.1986, forty per cent were required to be invested in Post Office Time Deposit. From 1.4.1986, this amount should be invested in Special Deposit with Central Government.

(b) States are entitled to loans equal to two-thirds of net small savings collections in their States.

(c) The question of compensating the State Government for the shortfall in their small savings loans attributable to the change in investment pattern is under consideration.

(d) As the revised pattern of investment is in force from 1.4.1986 only, States were not sustaining any loss during the last three years on this account.

Falling prices of rubber and coconut

2236. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS :  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of rubber and coconut have drastically fallen in the recent times; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to arrest their falling prices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). There has not been any drastic fall in prices in respect of rubber in the recent past.

Coconut price fell in 1985-86 on account of good crop. NAFED, Government of Kerala and Lakshdweep Administration introduced a market intervention scheme in January, 1986 to ensure a minimum price of Rs. 1200 per quintal of FAQ Copra.

**Import of gold to check smuggling**

2237. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any suggestion for allowing import of gold by certain categories of Indian passport holders to check its smuggling; and

(b) if so, reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) The suggestions received in this regard have been referred to the Working Group on Gold Policy set up by the Government of India whose report is awaited.

**Loan for construction of houses to bank employees**

2238. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that sufficient amount is not sanctioned by the nationalised banks in Karnataka to their employees for construction/purchase of houses;

(b) if not, the amount sanctioned for the purpose during last 3 years;

(c) the number of loan applications for house construction/purchase received by the nationalised banks in Karnataka from their employees which are still pending; and

(d) the number of employees who will be granted loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Government do not appear to have received any representation in this regard from the employees of any of the nationalised banks in Karnataka.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The number of employees who could get Housing Loan in any year would depend on the quantum of funds available, the quantum of funds sought by each applicant

and also the number of employees fulfilling the eligibility conditions.

**Production of silk in Karnataka**

2239. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of silk produced in the country;

(b) the percentage of the total quantity of silk produced in Karnataka State;

(c) whether there was a proposal to double the production of silk in Karnataka and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) The total quantity of silk produced in the country during 1985-86 (both mulberry and non-mulberry) is estimated to be 7855 Millions tonnes.

(b) The percentage of mulberry silk produced in Karnataka State during 1985-86 is estimated to be 61.3 per cent of total quantity of mulberry silk produced in the country.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government of Karnataka during the VIth Plan period implemented a Sericulture Development Project with World Bank assistance at a cost of Rs. 79.85 crores. The project aimed at doubling the production of raw silk during the VIth Plan period. Year wise production figures of mulberry silk produced in Karnataka during the VIth Plan are as given below :

Year	Mulberry silk (production in M. Tonnes)
1980-81	2878
1981-82	3000
1982-83	3200
1983-84	3345
1984-85	4509