

(b) Steps taken to increase the export of leather goods include liberalisation of the licensing and import and export policies, duty reduction/exemption on a number of essential inputs, participation in important trade fairs abroad, buyer-seller meets, market surveys and publicity.

(c) and (d) The target fixed for export of leather and leather goods for the Seventh Plan is of the order of Rs. 4040 Crores.

Functioning of Cooperative Banks in Different States

5018. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the present conditions of the Co-operative Bank functioning in different States ;

(b) whether it is necessary to revitalise the cooperative banking in view of their deteriorating financial position ; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) Presumably the Honourable Member is referring to the State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and Central Cooperative Banks (CCBs) functioning in various States. Suitable norms have been evolved to identify the weak SCBs/CCBs. On the basis of these norms the weak SCBs/CCBs as on 30.6.1985 have been identified. Individual weaker SCBs/CCBs are required to prepare time bound rehabilitation programmes involving case by case analysis of overdues, effective action against wilful defaulters, relief to non wilful defaulters, augmenting bad and doubtful debt reserves, rationalisation of loan policies and strengthening of supervision. NABARD oversees the implementation of the rehabilitation programmes of individual weak SCBs/CCBs and guides these banks in taking appropriate steps for effective implementation of the rehabilitation programme.

[Translation]

Participation of Foreign Countries in Trade Fair Organised by TFAI

5019. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the country which has installed the maximum number of stalls in the trade fair organised by the Trade Fair Authority of India (TFAI) ;

(b) whether this years the Western countries have shown more interest in this trade fair as compared to previous years ; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to sustain the increasing interest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): (a) Italy was the biggest participating country in India International Trade Fair '86 occupying an area of 5000 sq. m. with 102 constituents displaying a wide rang of products.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A number of steps like streamlining of procedures for customs clearance and disposal of exhibits, selection of themes to be highlighted, reservation of days for business, systematic publicity and direct mail efforts abroad, etc. have already been taken.

It is proposed to continue these facilities in future also. Apart from this, new innovations will also be considered for implementation on the basis of the experience gained during IITF '86.

Trade Talks with China

5020. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement for trade by land route has been concluded with China ;