

keep officers and employees abreast with national and international developments on broad spectrum of issues like economic, political, social, cultural, administrative, etc. the question of discontinuance of newspapers on holidays would not arise.

[English]

Khusro Committee Recommendations for providing Loans to Agricultural Sector

4243. SHRI Z. SOBHANAD-REESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Khusro Committee has recommended that agricultural sector should be provided with at least Rs. 50,000 crores loan facilities every year;

(b) if so, the average amount made available as loans to the farmers in the country by various financial institutions/banks, etc.; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to implement the recommendations of the Khusro Committee in respect of providing funds to agricultural sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Khusro Committee did not recommend that any specific amount should be provided for agricultural sector each year.

(b) As per available information, the average amounts of direct agricultural loans per borrower disbursed by the commercial banks (1988-89) was Rs. 6548, by the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies the same was Rs. 1732 and for Regional Rural Banks (1989-90), the same was Rs.

3499.

(c) Khusro Committee reviewed the working of the rural credit system in the country and made recommendations inter-alia for revitalisation and strengthening of cooperative credit system. Action has been initiated on the recommendations for preparation of Business Development Planning Programmes for Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) all over the country, imparting training for preparation of Business Development Plans and for simplification of lending policies and procedures. State Governments have also been requested to initiate on recommendations relevant to them.

Development of Buckingham Canal as National Waterway

4244. SHRI Z. SOBHANAD-REESWARA RAO VADDE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Buckingham Canal connecting Vijayawada city and Madras city has been recognised as a National Waterway to be developed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for this work during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent thereon so far and the progress of the work; and

(d) the date by which the development work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.