

deposits of RRBs kept with them. Further all commercial banks (sponsor or non-sponsor) have been advised by RBI to revise upward with effect from 1.4.93 the interest rates on current account balances maintained by RRBs with such banks from 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent per annum.

- iii) RRBs have been allowed to draw cent per cent refinance upto Rs.10 lakhs for loans to small and tiny industrial units with outlay not exceeding Rs.15 lakhs. Cent per cent refinance is also available to the RRBs for financing of small road transport operators.
- iv) Further, with effect from 22.12.93 a package of measures have been initiated by RBI/NABARD in consultation with the Government which *inter-alia* include increasing non-fund business, freeing RRBs whose disbursals during 1992-93 were less than Rs.2 crores from service area obligation and permitting them to relocate loss making branches in places like Mandis, Taluks, District headquarters, agriculture produce centers etc. and to open extension counters and to install safe deposit lockers.

Telugu Ganga Project

3514. SHRI P.KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government

of Tamil Nadu seeking permission to raise funds through N.R.I. bonds for the Telugu Ganga Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.ABRAR AHMED): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SBI Branches in Assam

3515. SHRI PROBINA DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more branches of State Bank of India in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their locations; and

(c) the time by which these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR.ABRAR AHMED):(a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the 1990-95 Plan, State Bank of India (SBI) has been issued the licences for opening its branches at the following centres in Assam: