

view requirement of our students and availability of aircraft at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi.

#### World Bank Aid for Solar Energy

1507. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:  
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any agreement with the World Bank for promotion of solar energy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank has imposed a condition that the agreement is liable to be cancelled if the solar energy produced is not used in the rural sector; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The World Bank has provided a line of credit of US\$ 55 million to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency. The objective of the World Bank assistance is to encourage the establishment of sustainable product supply, delivery, after sale service and financial mechanisms to support marketing of photovoltaic products on a commercial scales in the country.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Concessions to Blind Persons

1508. SHRI C.P. MUDALA GIRIYAPPA:  
SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether blind persons get some concession for travelling by air;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand by the associations of handicapped persons in the country to extend this concession to the companions also; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Due to high cost of operations, such concession to companions is not possible.

#### Closure of Branches of Central Bank of India

1509. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Central Bank of India proposed to be closed down;

(b) the circumstances leading to the closure;

(c) the number of employees likely to be affected as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avert the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that while allocating the recapitalisation funds for 1993-94, it was agreed to by Central Bank that they would close down 10 unviable/loss making branches in urban/metropolitan areas and convert into satellite office 50 rural/semi-rural/semi-urban branches. However, the Bank had not closed any loss making branch during the year 1993-94. The Bank had only converted three loss making rural branches into satellite offices.

#### Garment Export Entitlement Allotment Policy

1510. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:  
DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from exporters seeking amendments in the provisions of the Garment Export Entitlement Allotment Policy (Quota Policy), 1994-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government have received various representations from the trade, including some conflicting representations on different aspects of the Long Term Garment Export Entitlement Allotment Policy (1994-96). These representations, *inter alia* relate to permitting direct transfer between registered exporters without the medium of Registered Quota Agents, increasing the base period of calculation of Past Performance Entitlement (PPE) and Non Quota Exporters Entitlement (NQE) from one year to two years, increasing the number of options under NQE, earmarking certain percentage of annual level for the First Come First Served (FCFS) System, change in the definition of new Manufacture—Exporters, restricting transfer of entitlements during June—September period to 50% of the entitlements etc. Government have considered all the representations and have accepted the recommendations made in some of them, for implementation.

#### Euro Issue Guidelines

1511. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have revised Euro Issue Guidelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):