

(b) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry into the accident, and

(c) if so, the findings thereof?

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

(b) and (c) A Court of Inquiry headed by a sitting judge of the High Court of Himachal Pradesh has been appointed to inquire into the accident under Rule 75 of the Aircraft Rules, 1937. The report of the Court of Inquiry is awaited
[English]

Child Labour

2576 SHRI SHARAD DIGHE Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any estimate of child labourers employed in the farm sector and in service sector, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND HOLDING ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P A SANGMA) (a) and (b) As per 1981 census, the number of child labourers employed in the farm sector such as cultivators, agricultural labourers, livestock, forestry, fishing, hunting, plantations etc., is 9,491,000. Separate data exclusively for service sector is not maintained

[Translation]

Import of Sugar

2577 SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has supplied the imported sugar to Food Corporation of India for public distribution system, and

(b) if so, the rate, per tonne, at which the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has imported the sugar and supplied to the Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The weighted average price of sugar imported by MMTC and sold to FCI on high seas basis works out to around US \$ 383 per tonne C&F free out Indian port. In addition, in terms of extent procedure, FCI is to pay MMTC overhead/service charges at a uniform rate of 1.20% of CIF cost of each cargo

[English]

Deposits by Regional Rural Banks, Gujarat

2578 SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in the rural areas of Gujarat and the total deposits and working capital thereof separately,

(b) the number of people from rural areas benefited by these banks and the amount of loans disbursed during the last three years year-wise,

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints in regard to irregularities in these banks during the above period,

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard, and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make these banks more effective?

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

(a) There are nine Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), operating in the State of Gujarat and as at the end of March, 1994 the deposits mobilised by these RRBs and the working capital thereof were Rs 165.43 crores and Rs 226.45 crores respectively

(b) The number of rural customers benefited by these RRBs during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 was 61923 and 56738 respectively. The amount of loans disbursed during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 of these RRBs was Rs 31.11 crores and Rs 33.77 crores respectively. According to data made available by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the number of rural customers benefited was 35039 and the amount disbursed was Rs 24.01 crores in respect of five RRBs in the State, for which figures are available, during the year 1993-94

(c) and (d) The reporting system in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and NABARD does not generate the information with regard to number of irregularities found in RRBs in general or in their branches in the country

The complaint was however received in respect of Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank about certain allegations on account of misuse of office jeep, filing of unjustified claims of travelling and conveyance expenses, incurring avoidable expenses etc. The complaint was got investigated by sponsor bank who found the complaint as baseless

(e) With a view to improving the viability of RRBs a package of measures have been announced in December, 1993 for more flexibility in their lending operations and widening the scope of their allied banking services. These measures include raising non-target group financing from 40 per cent to 60 per cent, increasing non-fund business, freeing RRBs whose disbursements during 1992-93 were less than Rs 2 crores from service area obligations and permitting them to relocate loss making branches at places like Mandis, Taluk/District headquarters, agriculture produce centres and to open extension counters at premises of institutions for which the RRB is the principal banker. The RRBs have also been permitted to install safe deposit lockers

The RRBs in Gujarat (49 RRBs all over in India) have been identified for comprehensive restructuring.