

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the economic/financial loss suffered due to outbreak of plague in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Government propose to provide some financial assistance to the most affected States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). The outbreak of plague was limited in some areas of Beed District in Maharashtra and Surat city in Gujarat. The total number of deaths was 54. It is rather difficult to assess direct or indirect losses due to this incidence. However, due to a number of reasons, plague was totally contained. The Government provided assistance for containment and treatment of plague, comprising technical support for survey, analysis of samples, supply of drugs, insecticides, ayurvedic medicines, fumigation packets and also publicity material.

The close surveillance and implementation of precautionary and preventive measures are continuing. A sum of Rs. 20 crore was sanctioned for meeting the expenditure on purchase of materials and supplies and other measures.

[English]

Foreign Exchange reserves

2752. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount out of total foreign exchange reserves invested in US bonds, the percentage of interest received on these bonds, the net profit actually being earned by the Reserve Bank of India in view of the inflation of dollar;

(b) the net profit actually being earned by the foreign investors who are investing in Indian capital market in view of inflation in India; and

(c) the amount of loss being suffered by the Reserve Bank of India in view of all aspect of foreign capital investment and the manner in which this situation is being dealt with?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The investment of the foreign exchange reserves by Reserve Bank of India is undertaken in certain assets in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act. Central Banks generally do not disclose the composition or maturity structure of their foreign exchange reserves.

(b) It is not possible to provide an estimate of the net profit earned by foreign investors investing in the Indian capital market as it depends on a number of factors such as timing of investments, maturity of investment, the

performance of the market and the particular scripts that they invest in.

(c) The Reserve Bank has all along a positive return on its investments

Fraud In Indian Banks in U.K.

2753. SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special investigation team from U.K. came to India to investigate a massive fraud involving Indian banks branches in the United Kingdom; and

(b) if so, the details of the banks involved and the fraud committed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Kent Police Squad under the direction of Serious Fraud Office of U.K. are investigating into the companies of the LETAP Group which defrauded the Indian banks. The banks involved are Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Syndicate Bank, Bank of India and UCO Bank. The fraud was perpetrated by the LETAP Group operating from U.K and it went into liquidation in 1992. The extent of liabilities of the Group with the Indian banks as on 31.3.1994 has been estimated at U.S. \$ 15.80 million. RBI has also reported that officials of the Serious Fraud Office came to India in September, 1994 for discussions about certain instructions issued by RBI.

[Translation]

Urban Cooperative Banks

2754. DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amendment has recently been made by the Government in the existing law for representation of backward Castes and economically weaker sections in the Urban Cooperative Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether this amendment has been implemented all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.