

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to sell such cotton and cloth?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY) : (a) At present, cotton and cloth worth about Rs. 33 lakhs and Rs. 22 lakhs respectively are lying in New Victoria Mills and Atherton Mills, Kanpur.

(b) Since the cotton and the cloth are old and in a damaged condition, no offers have been received from the agents and dealer of NTC mills against the quotation invited. NTC will continue to make efforts to clear them.

[Translation]

Branches of Bank of Maharashtra

5406. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of the Bank of Maharashtra functioning of all over the country;

(b) the extent of profit earned or loss suffered by these branches during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to wind up the branches running in losses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As on 31.12.1994 (latest available) 1132 branches of Bank of Maharashtra are functioning in the country.

(b) Bank of Maharashtra has reported that the bank had suffered loss amounting to Rs. 19651 lakhs during the period ending 31.3.1993 and Rs. 29693 lakhs during the period ending 31.3.1994.

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that in terms of their extant policy with regard to closure of bank branches in the country, banks' proposals for closing of loss making branches located at well banked urban/metropolitan centres are considered by them on merits of each case. At rural centres served by two commercial bank branches (excluding branches of Regional Rural Banks), the decision for closure of one of the branches may be taken by the concerned banks by mutual consultation.

Financial Assistance for Hospitals

5407. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has submitted a proposal for seeking financial assistance from Housing and Urban Development Corporation and National Housing Bank to improve the conditions of hospitals in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided so far by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that it has not received any proposal for financial assistance from the Government of Uttar Pradesh to improve the conditions of the hospitals in the State in the recent past. The information from Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Publicity of Public Sector Banks in Rural Areas

5408. DR. P.R. GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by the public sector banks on publicity in the rural areas during the each of the last three years, bank-wise, together with the nature of publicity;

(b) the extent to which the saving schemes became popular as a result thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken to popularise and encourage the saving schemes in rural areas;

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.

Reduction in Rate of Bank Loan

5409. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently reduced the rate of bank loan for financial companies and restricted the facility of bridge loan for public issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any memoranda from the various financial institutions against the introduction of this policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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