

Rural Development (NABARD) are indicated below :
(Rs Lakhs)

Banks/ Cooperatives	No.	Profit	Loss
State Cooperative Banks	1	703.88	-
District Central Cooperative Banks	25	171.68	-
Madhya Pradesh Land Development Bank	1	118.35	-
District Land Development Banks	45	-	5699.69 (accumulated)
Regional Rural Banks	24	-	5455.20

Information in respect of 5 PCCBs in Madhya Pradesh are not available.

(b) and (c). The major reasons for the losses suffered by various banks are little scope for deployment of funds, high incidence of overdues with low margins, Low level of business, bad debts, etc. Government, Reserve Bank of India and NABARD had taken important measures to improve the efficiency of the banks and to contain the losses in future. Some of these are extension of loans to non-target group of borrowers, widening the range of business and the scope of services, relocation of loss making branches, opening up of new avenues for investment of surplus funds, etc. RRBs have been advised to prepare banks specific development action plans for achievement of sustainable viability within a period of 5 years. All the SCBs/SLDs and DCCBs in the country and the concerned State Governments are entering into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with NABARD based on the State Action Plans and Development Action Plans.

English

Tampering of Records by Borrowing Companies

7426. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain cases of tampering with stocks hypothecated with the banks by the borrowing companies have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) monitors cases of different types of frauds involving Rs.1 crore and above. Based on information received from banks, RBI have reported that there were 4 fraud cases involving Rs 1 crore and above during 1992-93 relating to tampering with stocks hypothecated with the banks by the borrowing companies. The total amount involved in these four frauds was Rs. 7.23 crores.

Measures advised by RBI to banks to prevent the possibility of tampering of hypothecated stocks include meticulous verification of the borrower's title to goods pledged/hypothecated, submission of periodical stock statements by borrowers to the banks, scrutiny of the stock statements by the banks, physical verification of the stocks from time to time, ensuring the safety of the godown in which pledged goods are stored, surprise inspection of the goods by a special squad, etc.

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

7427. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether handloom weavers working in cooperatives are covered by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring them under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, both the Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Governments for the fixation/revision of minimum wages for the scheduled employment under their respective jurisdictions. The State Government are the appropriate Governments for the fixation/ revision of minimum wages for the workers engaged in the employment of handloom weaving. The provision of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are applicable to any handloom weaving establishments, if it is notified as a scheduled employment by the concerned State Government.

Illicit Trade by Foreign Countries

7428. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some foreign countries are selling artificial/fake jem stones in the domestic market as real stones;

(b) if so, the number of such cases found so far;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to curb this illicit trade, and

(d) the loss incurred by the Government in terms of foreign exchange in this fake trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. The Government is not aware of any sale of artificial/ fake gems stones in the domestic market as real stones.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Agriculture Loan

7429. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a decline in the recovery of bank loans provided to agriculture sector during the last three years;