

(d) to (f). IFCI has reported that the ratio of investment to loans and advances was 0.04, : 1 as on 31.3.1994. Disinvestment is made by IFCI whenever market conditions are favourable.

Reward Money

3727. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has instituted a case against some top Customs officials including the Principal Collector of Customs, Delhi, regarding alleged misappropriation of crores of rupees pertaining to reward money;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been initiated against the officials found guilty in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to prevent such misappropriation of reward money in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Yes, Sir. The matter is still under investigation by CBI.

(f) The existing instructions and procedures regarding grant of rewards contain safeguards against misappropriation of reward amount. These however, will be reviewed on receipt of CBI's report.

Securities Scam

3728. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in views of the JPC report on Securities Scam, the Government or RBI has made any provision for detailed investigation through special officers into securities transactions of the banks involved in the scam;

(b) if so, whether investigations have since been completed and reports received; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed retired IAS Officers as Special Officers in the following 8 public sector banks and subsidiaries for fixing accountability of the top management for the irregularities in securities transactions :

(1) Andhra Bank and Andhra Bank Financial Services Limited.

(2) Allahabad Bank and Allbank Finance Limited.

(3) Canara Bank and its subsidiaries viz., Canbank Mutual Fund (CBMF) and the Canbank Financial Services Limited.

(4) SBI Capital Markets Ltd.

(5) Syndicate Bank.

(6) State Bank of Saurashtra.

(7) Bank of India Finance Limited; and

(8) State Bank of Patiala.

Except in the case of State Bank of Patiala in respect of which the report has been recently submitted to RBI, the reports submitted by the Special Officers in respect of other banks were examined by RBI and action has been initiated by the banks concerned on the basis of the Special Officers Reports. The reports of the Special Officers have also been forwarded to CBI for investigation wherever considered necessary for fixing criminal culpability on the part of the individual executives.

Travel Safety Report

3729. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :
SHRI TARA SINGH :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

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

(a) whether the International Airline Passengers Association has described in its latest travel safety report that the most dangerous flights in Asia is Indian Airlines Airbus flights;

(b) if so, whether any protest has been made by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the performances and airworthiness of the Indian Airlines is doubtful and needs greater image; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(b) The news letter issues by International Airlines Passengers Association (IAPA) is not based on facts. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation had taken up this matter with the IAPA but no response has been received from them.

(c) and (d). The aircraft of Indian Airlines meet the airworthiness standards as laid down by LGCA and the countries of manufacture of the aircraft. Also, efforts are

constantly made to upgrade the level of air safety, in the operation of all types of aircraft by upgrading the facilities at the airports, monitoring of flight recorders, safety audit of airlines, adherence to laid down procedures and weather minima, dissemination of safety information, carrying out periodic inspection of aerodromes, conducting safety seminars etc.

Study on Viability of Power Plants in Gujarat

3730. DR. K.D. JESWANI :

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India has conducted any study on technical or financial viability of the power plants in private sector in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposals have been received by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India from power plants; and

(d) if so, the details of the proposals received during 1993-94 and 1994-95 so far and the action taken thereon?

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

(a) and (b). The Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. (ICICI) has reported that it has not conducted any technical and financial feasibility study with regard to private sector power plants in Gujarat separately. However, as a part of the process of granting financial assistance, ICICI conducts technical, financial and commercial evaluation of project proposals submitted to it by private sector companies, in consortium with the Industrial Development Bank of India and/or the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited.

(c) and (d). ICICI has reported that it received a proposal from Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation Limited (GTEC) during 1994-95 for setting up a 655 MW gas based combine cycle power plant. ICICI has already sanctioned financial assistance to this project.

Loan for Rural Godowns

3731. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks are exploring the possibility of having standard loan and credit terms for rural godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any interest subsidy is likely to be extended by Government in conjunction with lending institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Public Sector Banks grant advances to farmers for construction and running of warehouses, godowns, silos and cold storages, which are treated as direct finance to agriculture and forms part of priority sector. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance to banks for construction of godowns, if specific proposals are received from State Warehousing Corporations, for creation of new storage capacity/augmentation of existing storage capacity. Refinance support from NABARD is, however, not available for construction of godowns by private parties.

[Translation]

Loan Against Shares by Oman International Bank, Bombay

3732 SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oman International Bank, Bombay branch, had paid an advance amount of rupees 150 crore to some of the brokers against shares in the year 1991;

(b) whether the advance payment of such a huge amount is a violation of the well established rules of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loans to Cooperative Mills

3733. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the States from which requests were received for grant of long term loan for setting up cooperative mills; and

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned by the Central financial institutions therefor during the last three years, State-wise?

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

(a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the State Government of Maharashtra had advised it that 50 co-operative spinning mills would be set up in Maharashtra during the Eighth Plan period. Of these, 29 mills have so far approached financial institutions for assistance.