

(a) to (c) Assurance given to the House in response to Unstarred Question No. 4624 on 5.5.1995 has been fulfilled on 1.8.1995. The information is, however, reproduced as under :

"GIC has reported that, in one such case, premium cheque could not be realised as the concerned office of the insurance company at New Delhi included the cheque in the local clearing column. The cheque which was actually drawn on a Bank at Bombay was returned by the insurance company's Bank without any memo. The insured was not, however, informed about the same by the insurance company and he was under the impression of having the policy in force. The matter came to light only when the claim was lodged by the insured. The insurance company rectified the position by collecting the premium in question in cash and the claim was settled for Rs. 20,500/-".

Funds Crunch in Nabard

848. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the NABARD is facing severe funds crunch;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the main factors responsible therefor;
- (c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) :
(a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance support to base level financial institutions for lending to rural sectors and does experience resource gap. Assistance is being extended to NABARD from the general resources of the Government by way of grant and loan to the extent of Rupees Counterpart Funds relating to external agencies. Share Capital contribution of Rs. 85 crores each during 1995-96 has been sanctioned by Government and is being sanctioned by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) taking the authorised and paid-up capital of NABARD to Rs. 500 crores. Besides, RBI is extending general lines of credit to NABARD and Govt. of India allows market borrowing by NABARD with its guarantee every year to increase its resources.

(c) NABARD has approached Government to increase its authorised capital to Rs. 2000 crores from Rs. 500 crores to augment its resources.

Securities Scam

849. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "CBI alleges misuse of Rs. 44 crore E.E.P.C., HUDCO funds" appearing in the Economic Times dated March 13, 1995;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the total amount the Government have lost due to financial scams during the last three years?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) CBI have reported that two cases have been registered by them in the matter relating to misuse of funds invested by HUDCO with Allbank Finance Ltd., Calcutta and illegal placement of funds by EEPC with a broker. The investigation of CBI in both these cases has not been completed.

(c) As indicated in the Action Taken Report (AIR) on the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which enquired into the irregularities in securities and banking transactions laid in the Parliament on 26.7.1994, the problem exposure of banks/Financial Institutions was assessed by the Janakiraman Committee and Inter-Disciplinary Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Custodian at Rs. 4024.45 crores and Rs. 3651.35 crores respectively. In the revised paragraphs of the ATR submitted in the Parliament on 20.12.1994, it was inter-alia indicated that the loss (excluding interest etc.) to the Indian banks/financial institutions on account of notified brokers would not exceed Rs. 320 crores.

[Translation]

Tourist Spots of Historical Importance in U.P.

850. SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received information regarding some new historical places in Uttar Pradesh which could be developed as tourist spots;

(b) whether information has been received in regard to existence of the World's only one 6000 years old Parizat tree in Barabanki district;

(c) if so, whether any proposal has been sent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the development of this place as a place of tourist attraction; and

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

THE MINISTER FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Department of Tourism, Government of India had sought information from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh on the old Parijat Tree existing in Barabanki District. The State Govt. have informed that measures have been taken for the preservation of the Tree and improving the environs around it. Rs. 3 lakhs has been earmarked in the District Plan for the Year 1995-96 to construct the railings to protect the Tree. The State Government has also constituted a local Parijat Management Committee for the development of the area around the Parijat Tree.

[English]

Unemployment Review Committees

851. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKTAESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted review committees to go into the problem of sectoral Unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise; and

(c) the details of the constitution of these review committees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, it may be mentioned that a Committee (of Ministers) on boosting employment for the Educated Unemployed was set up in November 1991 under the Chairmanship of the Dy. Chairman, Planning Commission and an NDC Committee on Employment was set up in Feb./April 1992 under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister of Assam and consisting of Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Goa & Sikkim and Minister of State for Coal and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports & Women & Child Development and Member, Planning Commission.

Interim Relief to Journalists

852. SHRI RABI RAY :
SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Hindustan Times dated July 6, 1995 under caption "Journalist organisation demand interim relief;"

(b) whether major organisations of newspaper industry have urged the Manisana Wage Board to take a decision on interim relief to be awarded to the journalists;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the newspaper industry has substantially prospered in the post-Bachawat period; and

(e) the decision of the Wage Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Several organisations representing journalists, non-journalists and other newspaper and news agency employees have placed demands for payment of interim relief. The Wage Boards have fixed oral hearings from 22nd to 25th August, 1995 to consider these demands.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Goods

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

(a) the quantity of smuggled goods seized at International Airports during the last three months;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the details of the action taken against them?

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.

Conveyance Allowance to Central Government Employees

854. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide conveyance allowance to the Central Government Employees working in metropolitan cities.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Employment Opportunities

855. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :