

save them from hardship. The proposals in this aspect are forwarded by the Ministries/Departments administratively concerned with the PSEs.

(b) and (c) . Timely disbursement of salaries and wages to their employees is primarily the responsibility of the public sector units, which have a corporate status of their own outside the Government. They approach their subject Ministries/Departments in the first instance whenever there is an occurrence of shortfall in their resources for payment of these obligatory dues by them. The Ministries/Departments concerned in turn go into the merit of the requests as also availability of sanctioned provision for the purpose in the relevant Grant and thereafter make their recommendations to the Ministry of Finance. If funds are not available in the Grant, supplementary grants are obtained to provide the necessary budgetary support. There may be time lags from the companies sending their proposal and the Government finally providing the budgetary support as the procedural details stated above cannot be bypassed. These cases are, however, processed with utmost expedition in the Government.

#### **Loss Due to Flood**

941. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the heavy losses of crops, damages of properties etc. due to recent floods in 10 districts of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to cancel the Bank loans of the victims of the flood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) The Government is aware of the heavy loss of crops, damage of property etc. on account of recent floods in some of the districts of West Bengal.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its instructions dated 2nd August, 1984 issued standing guidelines to be followed by the banks for providing relief to areas affected by natural calamities. These guidelines have been issued to enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide the financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrial units, artisans, small business and trading establishments affected by natural calamities. These guidelines envisage interalia :

i) Conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans;

ii) Rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalment.

iii) Provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital;

iv) Relaxation in security and margin norms;

The extant guidelines of RBI do not provide for waiver or write off of loans because of floods.

#### **Export of Electronics and Computer Software**

942. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any record increase in India's export of electronics and computer hardware and software during each of the last three years including the first six months of the current financial year;

(b) the details of the countries to which the above items are exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) . The increase in India's export of electronics, computer Hardware and Software and the Foreign Exchange earned during each of the last 3 years including the first six months of the current financial year are given below:-

Year	Export* (VS \$ Min.)
1992-93	695.79
1993-94	800.32
1994-95	1228.39
Apr-Sep '95	750.16

\* includes VSNL services

(Source, *Electronics & Computer Software Export Promotion Council*)

The countries areas to which export of these items are made include North America, Latin America, EC Countries, Non-EC Countries, Russia, CIS Countries, African Countries, West Asia, South-East Asia, etc.

(c) The various steps taken to boost the exports of these products include participation in exclusive Indian shows/international exhibitions, sponsoring of market surveys, etc. Besides the general measures taken to boost export include introduction of Electronic Hardware Technology Park (EHTP) Scheme and Software Technology Park (STP) Scheme, reduction in tariff level on import of machinery, Computer software, and other inputs, etc.

### Inflation Rates

943. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been fluctuation in the rate of inflation recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the rate of inflation both in terms of Wholesale Price Index and Consumer Price Index, month-wise during each of the last nine months;

(d) how does it compare with these of October, 1992 to June, 1993; and

(e) the measure/taken by the Government to stabilise the rate of inflation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Gradual deceleration in the growth of prices has brought down the rate of inflation from 10.4 per cent at the close of financial year 1994-95 to 8.2 percent by the second week of November 1995.

(c) and (d) . The position of annual inflation rate in terms of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and consumer Price Index for industrial Workers (CPI-IW) for the last nine months is listed below together with comparative figures for October, 1992 to June, 1993.

1	Annual Inflation rates (%)		Month	Annual Inflation rates (%)	
	WPI (1981-82)	CPI-IW (1982)		WPI (1981-82)	CPI-IW (1982)
2	3	4	5	6	
Feb, 95	11.7	9.8	Oct. 92	10.6	9.4
Mar, "	12.2	9.7	Nov. "	9.1	8.4
Apr, "	10.0	9.7	Dec. "	8.5	8.0
May "	9.9	10.3	Jan. 93	7.6	5.7
June "	9.1	10.5	Feb. "	7.6	5.7
July "	8.4	11.4	Mar. "	7.1	6.1
Aug. "	8.8	10.9	Apr. "	6.9	6.1
Sept. "	8.6	10.1	May "	6.9	5.1
Oct. "	8.3	Not	June "	7.0	5.9
Nov. 11 "	8.2	Released			