

The actual level of credit in relation to locally mobilised deposits in a particular State or Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities like irrigation, power, rail, road, transport, basic and technical education, entrepreneurship and availability of required inputs and marketing outlets for agricultural, industrial production etc. The issues relating to deployment of bank credit are monitored regularly in the State Level Bankers' Committee meetings, Banks have also been advised to achieve a credit deposit ratio of 60 per cent in their rural and semi-urban branches separately on an All India basis.

[English]

Special Committee for Direct Investments in Abroad

957. SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN :

SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has appointed a special committee to process all applications involving Indian Direct Investments abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the committee; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL) : (a) and (b) . Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has appointed a Special Committee to process all applications involving Indian direct investments abroad beyond US \$4 million or those not qualifying for fast track clearance. The Committee will be chaired by the commerce Secretary, Government of India with the Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, as the Alternate chairman. The Committee will have as members representatives of Ministries of Commerce, Finance, External Affairs, and the Reserve Bank of India. The Committee may co-opt other members, if necessary, in sectors to which the proposals relate. The Committee will consider the proposals keeping in view the extant guidelines and make recommendations accordingly. The

Committee will inter-alia, also review the criteria for the monitor and the progress of all overseas investments under these guidelines and evolve its own procedures for consultations and approvals.

The Committee has been formed in terms of the fresh guidelines for Indian direct investment in Joint ventures, wholly owned subsidiaries issued by Ministry of Commerce on August 17, 1995.

(c) The Committee has already started functioning.

Arrest of Custom Officials

958. SHRI RAM NAIK :

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI P. C. THOMAS :

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether CBI have arrested custom officials posted at Indira Gandhi International Airport 1988 under the Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 on 17th October, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of the unaccounted amount seized from the customs officials;

(c) the punitive action the Government have taken against customs officials involved in corruption charges;

(d) whether the customs officials have gone on strike in view of CBI raids;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the total loss to exports and imports due to strike; and

(f) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to deal with such incidents in future?

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

(b) As per CBI report, Rs. 1,16,788, US \$ 33 and 100 Saudi Reyls were recovered from customs officials.

(c) 14 officials, 4 Supdts., 9 Inspectors and One Examiner arrested by the CBI were suspended w.e.f. the date of arrest i.e. 17.10.95. Further action will be decided upon receipt of full investigation report from the CBI.

(d) Group 'B' and 'C' officials of New Customs House, Delhi struck work from 17 October to 20th October, 1995 after CBI raid. However, many Customs officials including Group 'B' and 'C' at IGI Airport, New Delhi continued to work during this period.

(e) There was some delay in the clearances but no loss either to revenue or to importers or exporters has been reported because Group 'A' Customs and Central Excise officers posted in Delhi including some probationers from National Academy of Customs, Excise and Narcotics were pressed into service.

(f) Stricter supervision over the clearance work is being exercised by top level officers like Commissioner, Additional Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner. The officers of Vigilance Wing of Customs House have also been visiting various work stations conducting checks on documents, consignments etc.

Child Labour

959. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has formulated any pragmatic and integrated scheme for the eradication of child labour;

(b) if so, the broad feature thereof;

(c) the manner in which this scheme is likely to be enforced strictly; and

(d) the role envisaged for the State Governments in this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (d) . Under the National Child Labour Projects Scheme of the Ministry of Labour, a major activity undertaken is establishment of special schools to provide basic needs like non-formal education, vocational training, supplementary

nutrition etc., to the children withdrawn from employment. Voluntary agencies are being financially assisted to the extent of 75% for taking up welfare projects for working children under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme. Under the National Child Labour Project Scheme, children withdrawn from work are put into special schools where over a period of 3 years they are given primary level education, health care, nutrition and stipends.

Presently child labour elimination projects are functioning in 75 districts in 11 States in the country covering around 1.36 lakh children.

The Scheme is implemented through Child Labour Project Societies headed by the District Collector/District Magistrate who are State Government functionaries. In many cases, the scheme is implemented with the help of Non-Governmental Organisation. Funds for the National Child Labour Projects are released in instalments after appropriate checks by the Government of India to ensure that projects are run properly and as per conditions laid down for implementation of these Projects.

The enforcement of the provisions of the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act by State Government and U.T.s is being monitored by the Central Government.

Strike by Bank Employees

960. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY :

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI :

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES :

SHRI TARA SINGH :

SHRIMATI KRISHNENDRA KAUR (DEEPA) :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Bank employees observed a two-day strike during September, 1995;