

to factors such as greater emphasis laid on the profitability of banks, prudential norms stipulated by RBI in regard to income recognition, provisioning and capital adequacy and high translation and risk costs involved. RBI have advised all banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target for priority sector lendings including lending to agriculture. Banks have also been advised that failures on their part to achieve the target could invite bank specific policy measures. RBI have also recently taken a number of steps such as introduction of Agricultural Credit Card to enable farmers with good track record to secure production credit instantly, cash credit facility, financing of innovative and high-tech agricultural projects and establishment of Rural Infrastructural Development Fund to ensure enhanced credit to agricultural sector.

Visit to Myanmar by Commerce Minister

2115. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State for Commerce visited Myanmar in the month of February this year; and

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Minister of State for Commerce visited Yangon from 17-19th February, 1995 to co-inaugurate the India Trade Exhibition which was held in Yangon from 17-25th February, 1995. He also took the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual interest with Myanmar Government authorities.

UN report regarding Human Development in India

2116. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news item captioned "UN report ranks India low in Human development" appearing in the Economic Times dated August 27, 1995;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the remarks made by the UN report against India on human development; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The report

appeared in the New Delhi Edition of Economic Times dated 28 August, 1995.

(b) and (c). No remarks have been made as such against India in the Human Development Report. In the said report, countries have been ranked according to Human Development Index (HDI) devised in the report. This Index has three components: life expectancy at birth; educational attainment, comprising adult literacy with 2/3rds weight, and a combined primary, secondary and tertiary enrolment ratio, with one-third weight; and income. The basic data for calculating the Index has been taken from UN report on population, UNESCO on education and the World Bank for income. As such there is less scope for any subjectivity on the part of the writers of the Report in calculating the HDI for different countries.

Licence of Private Airlines

2117. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to cancel the licences of the those private companies which have not started their flights on prescribed routes;

(b) whether any enquiry committee has been set up in regard to the violation of rules; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The actual deployment of air services vis-a-vis the approved schedules of all the scheduled airlines is monitored by the Director General of Civil Aviation and corrective measures are taken as and when required.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Hawala Racket

2118. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Revenue Intelligence has received any complaints in July, 1995 regarding a massive fraud/hawala racket of about 84 million dollars in collaboration with Nariman Point branch of South India Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the investigation made in this regard; and

(c) the preventive action taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Investigations made by Director General of Revenue Intelligence indicated outward remittances of US \$ 8.42 million (Approx. Rs.270 crores) without corresponding import of goods.

(b) and (c). The information is being further investigated by Department of Banking, RBI, CBI, Directorate of Enforcement and Income-tax Authorities and appropriate action in accordance with law would be taken.

Export of Cotton

2119. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought permission for enhanced quota of cotton export;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government in this regard and quantity of cotton allowed for export by cotton growing states, State-wise vis-a-vis demand made by them;

(c) how does it compare with the quota allowed for the last three year rationale therefor; and

(d) the details of representation received from the Government of Maharashtra in this regard and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of Maharashtra have requested for release of export quota of minimum two lakh bales.

(c) and (d). Overall quantity of cotton to be released for export depends on the demand and supply scenario in the country, taking into account the interests of all sections.

Export of Tea

2120. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GATT Treaty is likely to affect on export of tea; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). The GATT Treaty has resulted in reduction of tariffs by a number of major importers of Indian tea. It is likely to have a positive impact on exports of tea depending upon the competitiveness of Indian tea in the international market.

Banks for Financing Risk Venture Capital and Seed Money

2121. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has mooted a proposal to the RBI for setting up of special banks to finance risk venture capital and seed money;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that they have not yet received any such proposal.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

BOP Position

2122. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a marked improvement in India's balance of payments position during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the BOP situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) and (b). India's balance of payments during 1994-95 exhibited strength and resilience. There was a continued accretion to the foreign exchange reserves which, including gold, reached an unprecedented level of US \$ 25.2 billion at the end of March, 1995.

Exports during 1994-95 showed a robust growth. Imports rose sharply in line with the expansion in economic activity. There was an appreciable improvement in the performance of invisible receipts. The current account deficit in 1994-95.