

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by Government for the development and expansion of tourism in the areas adjoining the Himalayas?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Department of Tourism has set up a Voluntary forum called Himalayan Tourism Advisory Board (HIMTAB) which provides a common platform for mutual inter-action between the representatives of the public and private sectors in the Himalayan States from time to time with regard to tourism programmes and activities, which can be undertaken through inter-state co-operation.

Opening of Branches of Punjab National Bank in Hill Areas of Uttar Pradesh

342. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab National Bank has opened a regional office in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of its branches functioning in the three districts of this area; and

(c) whether the Bank proposes to open some more branches in the area and if so, the location thereof and when these branches are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Punjab National Bank has reported that it has set up two Regional Offices at Dehradun and Kashipur to look after its 74 branches located in the districts of Almora, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Rampur, Chamoli, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal and Uttarkashi.

(c) According to Punjab National Bank, it has licences pending for opening of branches at Akhori (Tehri Garhwal), Mukkhu (Chamoli), Trishula (Chamoli) and Rudoli (Uttar-Kashi). The bank proposes to open these branches by 31.3.1990.

Curtailment of Non-Development Expenditure

343. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to take some comprehensive measures to curtail non-developmental expenditure; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extend to which this expenditure is proposed to be curtailed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Government are continuously making efforts to reduce non-developmental expenditure to the barest minimum. A number of measures have been taken to bring about reduction in the expenditure. These include curbs on creation of posts, travel expenses, entertainment, inessential seminars, conferences, publications, purchase of furniture/furnishings, fuel consumption etc. Further Ministries and Department of Government have been instructed to review all their programmes and prioritise them adopting the zero base budgeting technique so that expenditure on low priority items can be reduced/eliminated. The results of all these efforts can be assessed only over a period of time.

[English]

Improvement in Programmes of Radio Station at Nagarcoil

344. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase A.I.R. coverage and make improvements in the programmes broadcast from A.I.R. Station, Nagarcoil;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). The concept of Local Radio Station has been developed to serve a small area. It being a Local Radio Station, there is no proposal to increase the coverage area of AIR, Nagarcoil. However, it has been the endeavour of AIR to improve the programmes keeping in view the local needs and communication imperative.

[*Translation*]

Import and Export of Foodgrains, Sugar and Edible Oils

345. SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state the total quantity of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils imported and exported during 1989 and per unit price thereof in Indian currency?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): Total quantity and value of Foodgrains viz. wheat and rice, pulse and other cereals, sugar and edible oil imported and exported during 1988-89 and April '89-Aug., '89 is as under:-