

(b) The RRBs in Maharashtra has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 1867.14 lakhs during 1989-90, out of which Rs. 986.38 lakhs accounted for interest expenditure. Of the balance of Rs. 880.76 lakhs, as much as Rs. 636.01 lakhs was on salary and allowances etc. of officers and staff of the Regional Rural Banks.

(c) and (d). The RRBs working in Maharashtra put together disbursed a sum of Rs. 3144.18 lakhs in 73,857 accounts during the year ended March, 1990. The outstanding advance as of March, 1990 stood at Rs. 12,671.77 lakhs in 2,70,752 accounts and mobilised deposits amounting to Rs. 11105.45 lakhs in 9,17,127 accounts. The Banks have already assisted 2,70,752 accounts of weaker sections. They have also been actively participating in the Government sponsored programmes such as IRDP, DRI etc. which are exclusively meant for the weaker sections.

[English]

Indo-US Herpetological Project

88. SHRI TARIF SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Indo-US herpetological Project, the country has been losing rare fauna since 1984;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government, in this regard;

(c) whether the period of the project which has to last till 1987 has been extended till 1993; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOR-

ESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). The Indo-US Herpetological Project is a research project, undertaken by the National Museum of Natural History, New Delhi, in collaboration with Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, USA, to study the environmental diversity of the amohibians and reptiles in selected regions of Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. Such of the specimens collected by field teams from selected sites as require further examination and analysis are sent to Carnegie Museum. The project Provides that 50% of the collected specimens will be returned to the National Museum of Natural History after completion of their study at the Carnegie Museum.

(c) and (d). Very limited field work was reported to have been completed upto 1990. Therefore, an extension of the project for another three years was approved in terms of the Memorandum of Understanding governing the project.

Merger of Public Sector Banks Incurring Losses

89. SHRI R.M. BHOYE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:
SHRI R.N. RAKESH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge some public sector banks, which are incurring heavy losses, with other public sector banks:

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the names of the banks which are incurring losses;

(d) the time by which these banks are