

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals for the establishment of benches of High Courts away from their principal seats, are entertained only if received from the concerned State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court. No proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

Review of Credit Card Scheme

116. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the commercial banks were asked by the Reserve Bank of India to review the operation of credit card scheme; and

(b) if so, the main points brought out in the review and steps taken to rectify the drawbacks, if any?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH):

(a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the banks engaged in credit card business were advised by RBI in November, 1990, to prepare comprehensive review reports on the operations of credit card schemes in their banks and place such review reports before their respective Boards. The review reports are required to cover, inter-alia, details of the number of cards issued and outstanding, number of active cards, average turn over per card, average time taken for recovery of dues from the card holders, cost benefit analysis of the credit card business, etc.

(b) RBI has received such review reports from some of the banks engaged in credit card business. These indicate that credit card business has contributed to the overall profitability and customer service of those banks. On the basis of the reviews, the boards of the concerned banks have impressed the need to shorten the time taken for recovery and to closely follow up the overdue accounts.

Indo-China Border Trade

117. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:
PROF. YADU NATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) when the Indo-China border trade had been suspended and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government have decided to reopen border trade with China;

(c) if so, the new areas identified therefor; and

(d) when the Indo-China border trade is expected to be resumed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL):

(a) A Border Trade Agreement was signed with China on 29th April, 1954, for a period of 8 years. With neither country having expressed desire to further extend it, the Agreement expired in 1962.

(b) to (d). India and China have agreed, in principle, to resume border trade. Actual resumption of border trade can take place only after details are mutually finalised between the two countries.