

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that scrutiny of the operation of the stockinvest (SI) schemes by it and the Economic Intelligence Bureau have revealed that the scheme has facilitated corporate bodies, brokers, institutions, etc. to make high value applications for primary issues through SIs and get allotment under the proportionate allotment system. Operational irregularities, such as, issue of SIs without adequate deposit cover, issue of pre-dated SIs, issue of SIs in bulk for third parties etc. in violation of RBI's guidelines of issue of SIs, were also observed. It was, therefore, decided that the facility of SI should be permitted only to individuals and mutual funds and that too against the lien on term deposits, credit, balances available in savings bank/current accounts of the investors. However, as serious irregularities still persisted in the operation of SI Scheme, it has been decided that a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per individual per capital issue should be prescribed for issues of SIs by banks.

(e) Show-cause notice have been issued by RBI to some banks asking them to explain why a penalty of Rs. 5 lakhs and prohibition of issue of stock invests by the banks in future should not be imposed.

(f) Does not arise.

High Court Bench in Saurashtra

2696. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a great demand for setting up of High Court Benches in Bhavnagar district and other districts in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute any committee or commission to consider this demand afresh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which such Benches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from Bar Associations etc. from time to time for establishment of Benches of Gujarat High Court at Rajkot, Surat, Baroda, Kutch and Bhavnagar.

(c) to (e). The Government of Gujarat constituted in 1983 one-man Commission of Shri D.G. Palekar, retired Judge of the Supreme Court to study the demands and

to advise the State Government. In its report dated 23.8.85, the Commission recommended that a circuit bench of the Gujarat High Court could be established on the initiative of the Chief Justice subject to Governor's approval under Section 28(3) of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960. The Commission also recommended that there were no historical, geographical or even sentimental reasons for establishing permanent Benches anywhere in the State. The Government accepted the recommendations and sent a copy of the report to the High Court. As such, there is no proposal to constitute any Committee or Commission to consider the demand afresh.

(f) Does not arise.

Disinvestment by Public Sector Banks

2697. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of disinvestment made by the public sector banks during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) whether some more public sector banks propose to disinvest their equity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government have not disinvested any of its shares in public sector banks during the last two years.

(b) The proposal of one public sector bank to go in for a public issue contains a component proposing disinvestment of a part of Government's capital.

(c) RBI has initiated action to examine the proposal,

Setting up of Sericulture Centres in NE Region

2698. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a sum of Rs. 12.60 crores has been sanctioned for development and setting up of Sericulture Training Centres in North-Eastern States, but no work has been undertaken till date;

(b) whether the Central Silk Board has taken up any survey of such schemes/programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). The programme formulated by the Central Silk Board (CSB) at a total cost of Rs. 12.95 crores for the development of sericulture in North-Eastern Region is being implemented in collaboration with the States of the Region. Under this programme, 5 Project Offices, one Research Extension Centre for Mulberry, two Silkworm Seed Production Centres for Muga and one

for eri have already been established. Besides raising of mulberry plantation in 777 acres, augmentation of food plant for muga and eri have been 407 hectares and 96 hectares respectively. Under this programme Cooperative societies have been supplied with reeling machines for product development and diversification in muga sector. Assistance have also been provided to agencies for marketing of eri cocoons. In addition programmes have been undertaken for training of farmers, reelers and trainers.

Besed on the discussions held with the NE States, additional schemes have been formulated by the CSB to provide support for forward and backward linkages.

Pension to High Court Judges

2699. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the grant of pension to High Court Judges recruited from the Bar is discriminated against Judges recruited from higher judicial services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to remove the discrepancy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

Heavy Industry in U.P.

2700. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Heavy Industries set up in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether no heavy industry has been set up in the hilly region of the State so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken up by the Government to set up industries there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As on 31.3.1995, there were 17 Central Public Sector Undertakings having their registered Office in the State of U.P., which includes some PSUs under heavy industry namely, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd., Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd., Scooters India Ltd. and Triveni Structural Ltd. Besides, some PSUs located in other States under heavy industry are also having production unit in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. One each production unit of HMT. Ltd. and BHEL and registered Office of ONGC Ltd. are located in the hilly region of U.P.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[English]

Bank Credit to Industries

2701. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of small scale industries in the total bank credit has come down since 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that advances to small scale industrial (SSI) sector have almost continuously kept pace with the Increase in net bank credit since 1991 as will be observed from the data given below:

As on the last Friday of	Net bank Credit	Total SSI Advances	% of SSI advances to net bank credit
	(Rs. Crores)	(Rs. Crores)	
(Provisional)			
March 1991	105632.15	16782.99	15.88
March 1992	112160.42	17398.42	15.51
March 1993	132781.63	19388.09	14.60
March 1994	140713.82	21581.12	15.34
March 1995	169037.54	25842.80	15.39
March 1996	184390.76	29482.08	15.99

(c) RBI has reported that bases on the recommendations of the Nayak Committee it has simplified the procedure for providing credit to SSI units. All commercial banks have been instructed by RBI to sanction working capital limits of less than Rs. one crore to SSI units on the basis of 20% of their projected annual turnover. Banks have also been instructed to give preference to village industries, tiny industries and other small scale units in that order, while meeting the credit requirements of the SSI sector.

Letters from Members of Parliament

2702. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament in the office of the Finance Minister during the month of September and October, 1995 about