

[English]

New Bank Branches in Gujarat

5784 SHRI N.J. RATHYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India to open new branches of public sector banks in Gujarat, particularly in adivasi dominated area of Chhota Udaipur during the last three years and the centres identified for purpose;

(b) whether the banks concerned have opened their branches in Chhota Udaipur region on the basis of the licences issued to them; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c) No year-wise licences are issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for opening bank branches. However, under the extent licensing policy, RBI has allotted 54 rural centres to eligible banks. Out of this only one centre has been allotted in District Vadoarz in Block Karjani.

For opening branches in rural areas banks have to submit application through the Directorate of Institutional Finance. Regarding opening of bank branches at Semi-urban centres, no state-wise quota has been fixed. For opening bank branches at urban/metropolitan/port town centres, RBI has allotted 993 localities to commercial banks in unbanked/underbanked areas to be opened during the period ending 31st March, 1995. As regards number of branches existing and the new licences issued, if any, in adivasi dominated area of Chhota Udaipur the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[English]

Coverable establishments

5785. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to refer to the

reply given to Unstarred Question No. 242) dated March 12, 1993 and state:

(a) number of coverable establishments identified as on April 1, 1992 and April 1, 1993;

(b) number of such establishments formally brought under coverage of EPF Scheme on these two dates;

(c) number of such establishments in default as on April 1, 1992, and April 1, 1993;

(d) the arrears on these two dates; and

(e) the estimated amount due to be collected through the covered establishments annually?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Misuse of Gold Import Policy

5786. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government are aware that the receipts issued for legal import of gold are misused by smugglers to cover the seized gold;

(b) if so, the number of cases came to the notice of the Government since the introduction of Gold Import Policy; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) In few cases of seizure of gold duty receipts issued for legal import of gold have been produced to cover the seized gold.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Field formations have been alerted against the possible misuse of receipts. Baggage officers at International Airports have been directed to give full details for the passenger, his passport and identifying marks and numbers etc. of the gold in the baggage receipt.

NTC Mills

5787. SHRI SANDIPAN BHAGAWAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over certain NTC mills to worker's cooperative in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, millwise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Government is willing to support any viable proposal for cooperativisation of NTC mills, provided it bears the consent of all parties concerned. However, no concrete proposal in this regard has been received so far.

Joint Ventures Abroad

5788. SHRIMATI DIL KUMAR BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up some industrial units in Joint Ventures in some foreign countries during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of these units, country-wise and criteria adopted in this regard; and

(c) the protection provided to these units in these countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

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

Indian Fishermen in Kutch Area

5789. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian fishermen in Kutch area are affected due to the activities of Marine security agency of Pakistan as reported in the Indian Express dated Jan. 3, 1993 (Ahmedabad Edn.);

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment of the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the number of fisherman affected; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure the safety and security of Indian fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) Government are aware of instances of harassment of Indian fishermen by Pakistani ships off the Coast of Gujarat from time to time including in the recent period.

(b) and (c). The assessment is that these instances which do occur periodically involve fishermen operating close to the national Maritime boundary which has not been finalised yet. During the past four months, fifteen Indian fishing boats reportedly suffered harassment and intimidation by Pak authorities.

(d) Government have taken up this matter with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. Regular and continuous patrolling of our waters by the Coast Guard is also being maintained. From March 1993, Coast Guard has also enhanced the force levels of ships and aircraft to prevent such instances.

Diplomatic Relations with Iraq

5790. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the present status of Indian's