

Bank Loan Defaulters

989. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Central Bank Officers Federation has been demanding publication of lists of bank loan defaulters for a long time;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to make the banking system transparent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (c). Attention of the Government Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was invited to the news item published in the Indian Express dated 4th September, 1995 under the caption "Bank Officers' Union demands publication of defaulters list". However, RBI has reported that it has not received any representation from them. It did receive a request from All India Bank officers' Confederation, Calcutta, asking for disclosure of information relating to defaulting borrowers etc. RBI had advised the association that since the information asked for by it was of a confidential nature, the request of the Confederation could not be acceded to.

RBI put in place a scheme to collect and disseminate information (both funded and nonfunded facilities) aggregating Rs. 1 crore and above and whose accounts have been classified as 'doubtful' or 'loss' as also borrowers against whom suits have been filled. The information so collected is circulated to banks and financial institutions for their use. The list of defaulters circulated to banks and financial institutions cannot be published under the existing provisions relating to confidentiality of customers' accounts as available in various pieces of legislation. However, the list of suit filled accounts has been published already by RBI.

Appointments in AI & IA

990. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prescribed procedures for selection to various posts in AI & IA have been followed during last three years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Trade with Hungary

991. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to revive the tradeties with Hungary;

(b) if so, the details of new areas identified, if any, for revival and expansion of trade ties with Hungry; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details which have been offered for export to Hungary from India, in addition to the existing items of trade, are computer software, iron-ore, Indian whisky, carpets, precious stones, jewellery, traditional carved Indian wooden furniture, rugs and tapestries, machine tools, tractor assembly, processed foods and food processing machinery, earth moving machinery, casting & forging, project & consultancy exports, cooperation in non-conventional energy sources.

The items offered by the Hungarian side for exports to India *inter-alia*, are peas and other agricultural products, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, basic materials for pharmaceuticals, metallurgical products, machineries, electronics & cables.

(c) The steps and measures taken by the Government in this regard include exchange of delegations, participation in trade fairs in each other's countries and promotion of high level contacts, exchange of trade statistics and tender documents, exploring the potential for warehousing and consignment exports, possibility of third country exports, in Hungary, conclusion and protection Agreement and Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement respectively, encouragement of the business entities to participate in buyer-seller meetings and holding of Joint Commission meetings etc.

MFN Status for India by Pakistan

992. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has already granted Most-Favoured-Nations(MFN) status to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan has been dilly dallying the issue of granting MFN status to India for the reason or the other and that Pakistan has raising controversial issue over the matter;

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(e) steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to get Pakistan agree to the grant of MFN status to India;

(f) whether the Government have any proposal to withdraw the MFN status to Pakistan; and

(g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). India is a member of the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) and in compliance with its obligations under Article 1 of this Agreement to extend Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to other members, India has been according MFN treatment to Pakistan, except for the period between 1965 and 1974, when trade between the two countries was disrupted due to hostilities.

(c) to (g). In 1978, Pakistan unilaterally barred its private sector from trade with India, as a result of which benefits accruing to India under GATT have been impaired. With effect from 1982, however, private sector trade with India was resumed selectively and in stages by Pakistan. Presently, Pakistan restricts items of import from India, by means of a list of 571 permissible items.

The matter of denial of MFN rights to India by Pakistan has been taken up by India for resolution through bilateral consultations, in the first instance. There is no proposal under consideration of Government of India to withdraw the MFN rights granted by India to Pakistan.

Requests for Transfers in Bank of India

993. **SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the transfer requests of clerks for Gurgaon/Delhi pending with the Bank of India, Nariman Point, Bombay since May, 1987 and 1989 separately;

(b) the details of applications cleared since June 1989, so far; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to expedite all the remaining requests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) As reported by the Bank of India, the Number of Pending applications for transfer to Gurgaon/Delhi as on May 1987/May 1989 were as under :

		May 1987	May 1989
(i)	Gurgaon	12	15
(ii)	Delhi	53	68

(b) Six.

(c) The requests for transfers are considered by the bank as and when vacancy arises in desired places as per ranking in the waiting list.

Export Organic Food and Fibres

994. **SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any possibility to tap the foreign market in the field of organic foods and fibres;

(b) whether the Government have received any request in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Some of the steps taken to boost the exports of organic foods, *inter-alia*, include :-

(i) Setting up of a Standing-cum-Accreditation Committee to evolve policies and procedure for Accreditation, Inspection and Certification agencies.

(ii) Appointment of an International Consultant to develop an Indian National Organic Certification Scheme and its accreditation with European Economic Commission and International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement.

(iii) Participation in International trade fairs/exhibitions.

(iv) Providing financial assistance for development of production and export of organic foods to organic farmers/exporters.