

**Reappointment of Lead District Officers**

1113. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in 1991, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) withdrew its Lead District Officers appointed by the bank following the introduction of the Lead Bank Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the R.B.I. has been for sometime past, reviewing the utility of LDOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of the States have also been urging the RBI for reappointment of LDOs; and

(f) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it was decided in the year 1991 to withdraw Lead District Officers of RBI from the Districts in which NATIONAL BANK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NABARD) has opened its district level offices.

(c) to (f) Since July, 1993, RBI has been considering the question of reinducting Lead District Officers. For examining the matter further, RBI have sought opinion from bankers, Government officials, Non-Governmental Organisation etc. The response of the bankers and Government officials was in favour of reviving the institution of Lead District Officers. RBI has since decided to reinduct the Lead District Officers to the district from which they had been withdrawn.

[Translation]

**Flights in Gujarat**

1114. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to invite private airlines to operate in such areas of Gujarat where the national airlines do not operate; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Private Airlines provide air services on routes/sectors depending upon traffic demand and commercial viability. Government is encouraging private airlines to add more stations in their network, including places in Gujarat. At present M/s. Gujarat Airways and NEPC Airlines are operating to Keshod, Porbandar and Kandla. M/s. Gujarat Airways is also operating to Surat and Bhuj.

[English]

**Nationalisation of Textile Mills**

1115. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the objective behind nationalising textile mills in the country;

(b) the extent to which the said objectives have been achieved;

(c) the number of textile mills in Mumbai (Maharashtra) which have been nationalised and taken over;

(d) the number of workers in each nationalised textile mill in Mumbai (Maharashtra) who have been paid their back wages;

(e) the number of workers in these nationalised textile mills who are yet to get their back wages; and

(f) the time by when these workers are likely to be paid their back wages?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) NTC was incorporated in April 1968 with the object of running the sick textile mills taken over from time to time, rehabilitating them, modernising them etc. An investment of Rs. 510 crores has been made for modernisation, expansion etc. of the mills under NTC. While the production of market yarn, average sale realisation and exports have gone up, NTC has been incurring losses due to obsolete machinery, inadequate modernisation, shortage of working capital, excess man-power, low capacity utilisation, etc.

(c) In Bombay, there are 25 nationalised mills including the 13 mills whose management was taken over and which were nationalised by the Textile Undertakings (Nationalisation) Act, 1995.

(d) NTC have paid back wages to 217 workers of the taken over mills, (since nationalised) as follows :