

to depositors and save with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

Indebtedness of Union Government

2777. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the overall indebtedness of Union Government as on 31st March, 1985;

(b) how does it compare with the corresponding figure of 31st March, 1984;

(c) the total interest paid on such loans in the financial year 1984-85;

(d) whether in that year the entire interest was paid; and

(e) if not, what was the unpaid balance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Public Debt of the Central Government was estimated at Rs. 75350.87 crores on 31st March 1985 as compared to Rs. 65383.35 crores at the end of 1983-84.

(c) to (e). Revised estimate 1984-85 for interest payments on Public Debt was placed at Rs. 3616.63 crores on the basis of interest due. On receipt of claims from the holders of securities, the entire interest due to them is paid after scrutiny.

Relief to Pensioners of State Bank of India

2778. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the relief to pensioners of the State Bank of India has not been granted and are not brought at par with those pensioners of the Central Government;

(b) the reasons why the management of the State Bank of India has not granted upto-date instalments of relief to its pensioners; and

(c) by what time the remaining instalments of the relief will be paid to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). State Bank of India has reported that Relief to Pensioners of State Bank of India is granted in line with that to Pensioners of Central Government and accordingly relief to the SBI Pensioners upto the cost of living index 568 has already been extended in line with Government of India's instructions on the subject.

Government of India have announced on 18th July, 1985 further relief to Pensioners for the rise in cost of living (coverage index level 576). State Bank of India is expected to issue order extending the above relief to its Pensioners shortly.

Opening of New Bank Branch at Laxmapur instead of Bhawanipet by Andhra Bank Management

2779. SHRI T. BALAGOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Bank got licence/clearance from Reserve Bank of India for opening a New branch at Bhawanipet village, Yellareddy Block in Nazamabad District (Andhra Pradesh);

(b) whether Andhra Bank Management subsequently decided to change its original plan and opened its Branch at Laxmapur village;

(c) the reasons for Andhra Bank Management's decision to change its original plan; and

(d) under circumstances and how Reserve Bank of India agreed for such change ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has set up a Task Force consisting of representatives of Reserve Bank of India, NABARD and the concerned State Government at each of its Regional Offices. The Task Force has *inter-alia* been entrusted with the work of considering requests for substitution of the centres allotted to banks where they could not open offices due to non-availability of

infrastructural facilities, potential etc., by other suitable centres. Andhra Bank's proposal for substitution of the centre Bhawanipet by another unbanked centre Laxmapur was approved by the Task Force set up at Reserve Bank of India's Hyderabad Regional Office. The bank has opened its office at Laxmapur on 13th March, 1985.

Decline in Foreign Exchange earnings of Public Limited Companies

2780. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a steady decline in net foreign exchange earning of 300 public limited companies from 1980-81 to 1983-84;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such poor performance;

(c) whether similar situation exists in respect of public sector companies;

(d) if so, the details of earnings and expenditure both in foreign exchange; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to improve foreign exchange earning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Since the names of the 300 public limited companies in respect of which information has been sought has not been indicated, it is difficult to furnish the required information.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) A number of steps have been taken to improve the competitiveness of Indian Industry and increase foreign exchange earnings from exports. In particular, the following facilities are available to the exporters to increase the foreign exchange earnings.

(i) Blanket permits are issues to the exporters for business and export

promotion on the basis of their export earnings.

(ii) Authorised Dealers have been empowered to approve small value export claims.

(iii) Exporters are allowed to export trade samples free of cost.

(iv) Setting up of 100 per cent export oriented units.

(v) Emphasis on export tie ups in many of the foreign collaborations being approved by the Government.

(vi) Introduction of Import-Export Policy for three years from 1-4-85 as against annual review in the past to enable the industry to plan production on long range basis.

(vii) Increased import of new technology/export goods for upgrading production system to improve export competitiveness.

Losses suffered by Public Sector Mining Units

2781. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector mining units have been running in heavy losses during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details of the performance of various public sector mining units during the last three years, unit-wise separately; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve their functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The profit/losses of five public sector mining units under the Department of Mines during the last three years is given below :