

(c) whether Government propose to lay the report on the Table of the House;

(d) whether the group has made recommendation to check the spiraling prices of soda ash; and

(e) whether Government have accepted and implemented the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Recommendation of Working Group on Regional Rural Banks

183. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendation of the Working Group set up by Government under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Banking) to suggest suitable changes in the structure planning and operational strategies of Regional Rural Banks; and

(b) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Government had constituted a Working Group in August, 1984 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Banking) to make recommendations on various aspects of the Regional Rural Banks. The Working Group has submitted its report and the main recommendations are as follows:

- (1) While establishing new Regional Rural Banks, priority may be given to the areas with preponderance of SC/ST population.
- (2) There is a need to bifurcate unwieldy Regional Rural Banks with a view of managibility and better control.
- (3) The paid up share capital of each Regional Rural Bank be raised to Rs.100/- lakhs and correspondingly the authorised share capital to Rs. 500/- lakhs.
- (4) Only Scale IV or Scale V officers be chosen for the post of Chairman of a

Regional Rural Bank. In old and large size RRBs even higher scale officers may be appointed.

- (5) The Regional Rural Banks should retain their present image of small man's bank. However, they may be allowed to lend to public bodies like SC/ST Corporations/Housing Boards, village panchayats and other local bodies.
- (6) The present formula in respect of short-term refinance be modified and the RRBs, own involvement be increased from 20% to 30% and that of sponsor bank be reduced from 30% to 20%.
- (7) The interest rate charged by sponsor banks to RRBs be brought down from 8.5% to 7% per annum.
- (8) The RRBs be allowed to operate on the basis of refinance formula and no further restrictions on the CD ratio be insisted upon.
- (9) Some posts in the officer grade of the sponsor bank may be made available to the RRB officers of requisite experience qualifications.

Death of Tibetan Girl in Swimming Pool of Samrat Hotel, New Delhi

184. SHRI SIMON TIGGA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 19 year old Tibetan girl drowned in Hotel Samrat in June, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the swimming pools of ITDC hotels in Delhi are not cleaned regularly; and

(d) the action being taken against the erring and negligent officials?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MODH. SYED): (a) and (b). On 31.5.1986 Tibetan girls accompanied by Mr. Ibrahim a Jordanian boy came to Hotel Samrat swimming pool as casual visitors.

They get into the pool and began swimming with the support of a lifebuoy. The Life guard on duty at the pool had warned

them against going to the deep side of the pool. However, Ibrahim took one of the girls Miss Dicky to the deep side where she slipped from his hands and was drowned. The Life Guard who was on duty made all efforts to save her, but could not succeed. She was brought out of the pool, given first aid and rushed to the hospital where she was declared dead.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Since none of the officials were found to be negligent, the question does not arise.

Credit Deposit Ratio of Nationalised Banks in West Bengal

185. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Reserve Bank of India to improve the credit-deposit ratio of nationalised banks in West Bengal;

(h) the progress achieved so far in this matter; and

(c) if no measures have been initiated so far, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The Reserve Bank of India had discussions with the State authorities of West Bengal with a view to take effective measures for the improvement of credit deposit ratio. A special meeting of State Level Bankers' Committee was convened and the various Departments of the State Government were asked to have a relook into the annual action plans already prepared for all districts so as to achieve the objective of stepping up the credit deposit ratio. The State Government has also been advised to consider the recommendations made by the Sen Committee on Agricultural Productivity in the Eastern Region and top prepare suitable bankable schemes. The actual progress as a result of these measures, would be visible only at the end of the year 1986.

Raids on Tax Evaders

186. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of raids by Income-Tax Department during the last six months;

(b) the number of tax evaders arrested; and

(c) the amount recovered through tax from tax evaders ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) During the period 1.1.1986, to 30.6.1986 Income-tax Department conducted 2594 searches.

(b) and (c) . No arrests have been made as the Income-tax Act does not provide for arrest during the course of search.

Net gain to the revenue shall be known only after completion of relevant assessments for which normal statutory time limit is two years from the end of the relevant assessment year and the disposal of consequential appellate proceedings.

Setting up of Panel to look into the Affairs of APEDA

187. SHRI MANIK REDDY :

DR CHINTA MOHAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a forty-member panel has been set up to look into day-to-day affairs of Agriculture Products Export Development Authority as reported in "The Economic Times" of 24th June, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the panel, its functions and mode of working ;

(c) whether similar panels are operating or would be created for various other Export Development Authorities ; and

(d) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, under the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) Act, 1985, it is