

**Scheme for promotion of rural banking**

1248. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for promotion of rural banking ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that their branch licensing policy 1985-90 formulated in consultation with Government lays stress on improving banking facilities in rural areas. The main objective of the current policy is to achieve a coverage of 17,000 population (1981 census) per bank office in rural and semi-urban areas of each block. Banking facilities would be provided in spatial gaps to ensure that a rural branch is normally available within a distance of 10 Kms.

**Financial assistance from Asian Development Bank**

1249. SHRI SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased state :

(a) whether the Asian Development Bank has agreed to extend financial assistance to any private sector company in India ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Under its Private Sector lending operations, ADB has so far not extended any credit to Private sector company in India.

(b) Does not arise.

**Steps to check bank robberies in north-eastern region**

1251. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken to check bank robberies in North-Eastern States by Insurgents ;

(b) the number of banks looted by insurgents in North-East Region during 1986 ; and

(c) to what extent these measures have helped in reducing the bank robberies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has intimated that during 1986, 10 cases of bank dacoities have been reported from the North-Eastern States. Whilst banks have taken steps to improve the security arrangements in their branches in the North-Eastern States, wherever necessary, State Governments have been requested to provide better security cover.

**Indo-Swedish joint venture**

1252. SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI S. M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 50 crores social forestry project was launched in Bihar with the financial assistance from Swedish International Development Agency ;

(b) whether the Swedish Government has been approached for assistance for similar projects in other States also ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Social Forestry Project is