

(b) whether it is due to bypassing the banks in the flow of funds between the savers and users of savings;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to curb this; and

(d) if so, steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). There is no indication to show that the profits and profitability of public sector banks would be on the decline. The published profits of the 28 public sector banks in 1986 were 63% higher than the profits in 1985. Similarly, the profitability of 28 public sector banks, i.e. the published profits as a percentage of working funds has also increased from 0.11 in 1985 to 0.15 in 1986.

The mobilisation of deposits by scheduled commercial banks during the current year has been satisfactory and therefore the question of profitability of banks being affected on account of funds not coming to the banking system would not arise.

#### **Mutual funds**

1681. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:

SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN:  
SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Banking Companies Act has been amended by Government for the setting up of Mutual Funds by Banking Companies as a legal activity in 1987 ;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments made in the Act and its scope along with the functions and purposes for which mutual funds would be used;

(c) whether State Bank of India and Canara Bank have approached the Reserve Bank of India to set up Mutual Funds; and

(d) whether any of the nationalised banks have since set up any Mutual Funds and the exact details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) and (b). In exercise of the powers conferred on it under section 6(1) (0) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Central Government has issued a notification on 29th June, 1987 specifying the setting up or establishing and conducting a "Mutual Fund" as a form of business in which it is lawful for a banking company to engage itself in. A copy of the notification indicating the nature of business in which a banking company can engage itself in terms of the above notification is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4590/87.]

(c) and (d). State Bank of India has initiated certain steps for the conduct of the business permitted under the above notification.

Canara Bank has submitted a request to Reserve Bank of India for permitting it to set up a "Mutual Fund" business. No other bank has, as yet, set up a Mutual Fund.

#### **Tiger and Leopard population**

1682. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) how many tigers live in forests and parks in India, State and Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the tiger population has increased since last five years;

(c) how many white tigers are found in India and where;

(d) whether leopard is an extinct species; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase their numbers?