

approach in formulating their expenditure estimates from the Budget for 1987-88.

Copy of guidelines issued in this connection was also endorsed to all State Governments; however, as far as the States are concerned it is for them to decide whether to adopt this technique in their departments.

(d) Zero Base Budgeting is a step to control public expenditure. It brings into focus the priorities of public spending in the context of resource constraints. It will help in reducing and eliminating expenditure on non-essential items and thus enable adequate allocations for high priority sectors.

Circulation of Defective Coins and Currency Notes

446. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that defective coins and currency notes coming out of Government Mints, are allowed to get into circulation; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Despite various checks and counterchecks in the manufacturing process of coins and currency notes, occasionally defective coins/currency notes get into circulation. The job of examination and checks is repetitive and is done manually and a few defective coins/notes do escape detection. The percentage of such defective coins/notes in comparison to the total volume in circulation is however almost negligible. Even so, in order to improve the situation, Quality Control Cells are being established in the Mints. The Mints are also being equipped with more modern machines which will reduce the number of defective coins. There is already a Quality Control Cell in the Bank Note Press, Dewas for ensuring strict control on quality. Modern machines are being installed in the security presses and they will do the processing work automatically thus reducing defects.

Involving Industries in Afforestation Programme

447. DR. B.L. SHAIKESH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any plan to involve the Industries in the task afforestation;

(b) if so, its broad outlines and the financial implications;

(c) the steps taken to implement the same during the Seventh Five Year Plan so far; and

(d) the areas in Uttar Pradesh particularly in the Eastern U.P. covered by it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) Central Government are not promoting the entry of industries into afforestation projects on forest lands.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Government of Uttar Pradesh do not have any specific plan to involve industries in the task of afforestation.

Separate L.I.C. Division for Himachal Pradesh

448. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of sanctioning a separate Division of Life Insurance Corporation for Himachal Pradesh has been reviewed in the light of repeated and persistent demand therefor; and

(b) if so, when the Division is proposed to be opened ?

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

(b) After a careful consideration and taking into account all relevant criteria in

in this regard, LIC does not find it feasible to open a Divisional Office in Himachal Pradesh, at present.

Bank Dacoities in Punjab, H.P., J & K and Haryana

449. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of bank robberies/dacoities have been reported from the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana during the year 1986 and January 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the amounts involved State-wise;

(c) whether any action has been taken to (i) avoid such recurrence in future, (ii) punish the offenders, (iii) investigate the collusions of the bank employees/local police and (iv) reward the employees resisting these attempts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Details of cases of bank robberies/dacoities that occurred in public sector banks in the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana during the year

1986 and January 1987, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, is given in the Statement below.

(c) and (d). Bank robberies/dacoities, to a considerable extent, depend on the general security environment in the locality. Banks, however, have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little inducement as possible to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them. As this is a continuous process, security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time and whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the banks. Depending on the risk factor involved, steps have been taken to appoint security guards, instal appropriate alarm systems, etc. in branches. Further, in order to motivate bank employees, the general public and the police to resist robbers/dacoits, a scheme of rewards has been announced. Since apprehension of the culprits concerned is the most important deterrent, State Government/Union Territory Administrations have been requested to make all out efforts to arrest the culprits. During investigation the police are expected to look into all angles of the case, including possibility of collusion on the part of bank employees or police personnel.

Statement

Details of Cases of Bank Robberies/Dacoities that Occurred in Public Sector Banks in the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Haryana during the Year 1986 and January 1987, as Reported by Reserve Bank of India

Name of the Bank	Date of occurrence	Amount involved (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
Punjab		
1. Punjab National Bank Shahpur Jajan Dist. Gurdaspur	30.1.86	0.36
2. New Bank of India Taran Taran	8.1.86	4.00