

Name of the State	Amount released
Tamil Nadu	Rs. 6.50 lakhs
Kerala	Rs. 6.00 lakhs
Karnataka	Rs. 3.50 lakhs

(e) Research on biological/genetic diversity and allied subjects will be undertaken in Biosphere Reserves. There is no proposal for special training of staff as the programme is to be implemented through existing State agencies like Forest and Wildlife Departments.

Proposal to Introduce Union Public Saving scheme

516. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY, Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Union Public Saving Scheme with attractive interest rates;

(b) whether the new scheme would ensure monthly disbursement of interest to investors; and

(c) the other salient features of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The proposal for a Small Saving Scheme providing for monthly payment of interest is under Government's consideration.

Non-Business Working Day in Banks in Rural Areas

517. SHRI I. RAMA RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the manner in which the introduction of the non-business working day has helped the working of the banks in rural areas to the benefit of the poor; and

(b) whether this measure has helped to overcome the difficulties of the staff problem in rural branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). The objective of the instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in August 1986 to observe one day in a week as non-public business working day by the rural branches of commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks, was to overcome some of the problems faced by rural branches. This would enable the branch managers and other officers working in the rural branches to spend one day in the week to make field visits for contacting their present and potential clientele for greater inter-action with them, for mobilisation of deposits monitoring credit utilisation, recovery and providing guidance to the borrowers etc. The other staff at the branch are required to devote that day for clearing of arrears and to keep the housekeeping work upto date. As this measure has been introduced only recently, it is too early to make an assessment of its impact on the working of the rural branches of the banks.

"Environmental Pollution in Uttar Pradesh"

518. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government of Uttar Pradesh or Uttar Pradesh State Pollution Control Board has drawn the attention of Government to the widespread environmental pollution in different cities of the State such as Kanpur, Unnao, Agra etc. caused by leather industry seeking latter's assistance to curb such menace; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI): (a) and (b). The Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board had drawn the attention of the Central Pollution Control Board in regard to the environmental pollution caused by tanneries in Jajmau, Kanpur only. As a part of the integral sanitation project for Jajmau area, under the Ganga Action