

pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Bharat Electronics Limited has developed a highly sophisticated radar technology;

(b) If so, whether this has been fielded by the Indian Army; and

(c) what other sophisticated defence items are being developed and provided by BEL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE : (a) and (b). BEL has developed and productionised sophisticated radars, some of which are in use in the three Services and some are currently under evaluation trials by the Indian army.

(c) Other sophisticated defence items being developed and provided by BEL include equipments for communication radar and sensors, fighting vehicles, electronic warfare, and optical and upto-electronic items.

Investment Activity

3265. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the overall investment activity during the current financial year has been satisfactory;

(b) If so, whether the growth in national income has been lowered as compared to 1986-87;

(c) If so, to what extent it has been lowered; and

(d) what are the steps being taken to improve the investment activity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI): (a) to (d). Official data regarding national income and investment for 1987-88 as compiled by Central Statistical Organisation will become available towards the end of January, 1989. the government has adopted measures to ensure that resources allocated for drought relief are not diverted from public sector investment. On the agricultural front also efforts are afoot to improve the rabi output to mitigate the adverse effect of drought on kharif crop. Even so, it is to be expected that the national income growth in 1987-88 will be affected by the drought.

Bank Locker Facilities In Villages

3266. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the state Bank of India has agreed to offer locker facilities in villages;

(b) If so, the villages that are proposed to be covered during the current year;

(c) Whether there is a shortage of lockers in the cities also; and

(d) whether the SBI and also all the nationalised banks are working out plans to offer more locker facilities in both villages and cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANAPOOJARY): (a) to (d). While no special decision or programme for offering locker facilities in villages has been reported by State Bank of India, this facility is being provided by the Bank at selected

branches, including some rural branches, depending on several factors such as availability of space, security, demand for lockers, cost-return factor, benefits expected etc. It is true that there has been an increasing demand for locker facilities. The banks are endeavoring to meet this demand to the extent feasible.

[*Translation*]

Recruitment in Army

3267. SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment in the army takes place only at two level i.e. at the soldiers level and that of the commissioned officer level and a soldier has to cross many stages to reach the level of a commissioned officers:

(b) If so, whether Government propose to start recruitment of Subedar Majors or Subedars at the non-commissioned level; and

(c) If so, the details in this regard?

THE MIINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ. V. PATIL):(a) Recruitment in the Army, apart form Commissioned Ranks, is made directly at the level of (1) Sepoy (2) Havildars and (3) Junior Commissioned Officers (Naib Subedars). Avenues are open to the Non-commissioned and the Junior Commissioned Officers to pick up commissioned ranks after a minimum service of five years through a process of selection for Army Cadet College, Permanent Commission (Special List) and Regimental Commission if they fulfil the requisite educational qualifications, medical fitness and are within the

age limits laid down for this purpose.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Steps to resolve crisis in NTC

3268. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting was convened by Government on November 3, 1987 to discuss the crisis in the National Textile Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details of the discussion and conclusion arrived at?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank Aid for Mulberry Sericulture in Orissa

3269. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are contemplating a massive programme for development of mulberry sericulture in the non-traditional States with the help of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government of Orissa has represented to Central Silk Board with a definite programme for World Bank aid in this connection;