

(c) if so, the facts and reasons thereof; and

(d) the action being proposed to be taken to fill up those posts only by professional experts ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). Action has been initiated to fill up such vacant posts according to the relevant instructions in force. At this stage it cannot be indicated whether the said vacant posts will be filled up by inducting officers from the organised services or not.

Bank Credit to Agriculturists

2601. **SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of the agriculture in the total gross bank credit is only 17 per cent even though agriculture accounts for more than one-third of the national income;

(b) whether medium and large industry accounts for 36 per cent of the credit though their share in national income is less than 20 per cent;

(c) whether the credit requirements of the vast masses of agriculturists are not generally met;

(d) whether special measures are being taken by Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The outstanding advances of 50 scheduled commercial banks which account for about 95% of bank credit, as on the last Friday of September, 1987, in respect of agriculture (direct and indirect) and industry (medium and large) were Rs 11,241 crores and Rs. 22,557 crores which worked out to 17.5% and 35.2%, respectively. Besides assistance from these scheduled commercial banks, a major portion of loans for agriculture and allied activities is granted by co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks and the total loans for such

purposes outstanding to these banks were Rs. 11,404 crores and Rs. 1,061 crores, respectively, as at the end of June, 1987. Thus, the genuine credit requirements for agricultural purposes are being met to a large extent.

(d) and (e). In order to increase the level of direct agricultural advances of the public sector banks, it has been decided to increase the target for such advances from the existing level of 16% to 17% of their total outstanding advances by March, 1989. With effect from 1.3.1988, the rate of interest on crop loans upto Rs. 7,500 has been reduced to 10% from 11.5% to 12.5% and for loans above Rs. 7,500 and upto Rs. 15,000, the interest rate has been reduced to 11.5% from 12.5% to 14%. The reduction in the rate of interest is also expected to induce greater availment of credit assistance from the banks for agricultural purposes. In the case of persons affected by natural calamities, such as drought or floods, steps such as reschedulement of term loans, conversion of short term loans into term-loans, grant of moratorium, etc. are being allowed on merits of individual cases.

National Housing Bank

2602. **SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :**
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK :
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK ;
SHRI YASHWANT RAO
GADAKH PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any progress has been made in establishing the National Housing Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no progress has been made, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). Preparatory work for establishing the National Housing Bank has already been

initiated and the bank is expected to start functioning shortly.

Post Office Time Deposit Accounts

2603. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have liberalised the rules for post office time deposit accounts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether premature withdrawals will be permitted under the liberalised rules ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Post Office Time Deposit Rules have been liberalised from 23.12.1987 to allow a trust, a banking company (excluding cooperatives), a corporation, an association, institution, a body registered as a society under any law for the time being in force (excluding cooperatives), a firm registered under the Indian Partnership Act, 1932 (9 of 1932), a local authority, and Regimental Fund and Welfare Fund to open a Post Office Time Deposit account.

(c) Yes, Sir, subject to the conditions laid down in the existing rules.

Finances for Construction Business

2604. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the manner in which Government propose to ensure finances to the construction business apart from through the National Housing Bank; and

(b) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). The guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cover bank advances for construction of residential houses by public housing

agencies like HUDCO and housing boards, local bodies, individuals, Co-operative Societies and employers. The finance from commercial banks is extended to enable the prospective beneficiaries including those belonging to low income groups/economically weaker sections of the society to own residential houses. RBI has reported that banks have been extending demand loan/cash credit/overdraft and guarantee facilities to construction companies also.

Welfare Scheme for Craftsmen

2605. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report captioned "Craftsmen ignorant of welfare schemes" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated 3 January, 1988 and

(b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regards ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following steps are being undertaken :

(1) Welfare Schemes for Craftsmen

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is implementing a welfare scheme of giving financial assistance to master craftsmen-in-indigent circumstances since the year 1973-74.

(2) Marketing Assistance

The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) have set up 47 Marketing and Service extension Centres throughout the country with a view to generate self employment among the artisans, to increase their earnings by way of various sales promotion programmes. The M & SECs are rendering package of services to the craftsmen like assistance in getting credit facilities, raw materials, improved tool and techniques etc. The Centres are also organising various sales promotion programmes, like product promo-