

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the public sector banks adopt certain villages under the Village Adoption Scheme (VAS) which aims at deriving the advantages accruing from concerted and coordinated efforts of various area specific schemes. As at the end of June 1987, the Public Sector Banks have adopted 1401 villages under Village Adoption Scheme in Kerala State and the amount outstanding there against was Rs. 143 crores in respect of 3,89,722 direct agricultural accounts.

Reserve Bank of India have, in March, 1988, issued comprehensive guidelines to all the commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on the implementation of the Service area approach which involves assigning specific areas to banks located in rural and semi urban centres. Under this all the villages in the country will be allotted to one branch or other of the commercial banks including RRBs. It will be the responsibility of the designated branch to meet the genuine credit requirements of all the eligible borrowers living in a group of villages allotted to it.

Import of Cotton for Spinning Mills

2558. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI:
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to import cotton to be supplied to the cooperative spinning mills in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and

West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it will hit the interest of the cotton growers in the above States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Government have decided to permit the export of one lakh bales of medium/long staple cotton duty free during the current cotton year for supply to Co-operative Spinning Mills/State Textile Corporation Mills in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh for the production of Hank yarn for supply to Handloom sector at reasonable prices.

(c) No, Sir.

Hungarian Credit offer for Neyveli Lignite Project

2559. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hungarian Government's offer to help the Neyveli Lignite Project with a Credit of \$ 200 million for development and expansion of the project has been accepted by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to make similar efforts with other countries to complete the long pending major projects in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) Government is continuously making efforts to get soft term loans/credits for major projects in India.

Public Funding of Election

2560. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has drawn Government's attention towards rising cost of elections;

(b) if so, when and the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether suggestions for public funding, partial and fully of elections have also been made by the Commission to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. As part of the proposals for electoral reforms, the Election Commission has suggested that a scheme under which all legitimate election expenses could be borne by the Government, may be studied in depth.

Vacant posts of Judges and pendency of cases

2561. BHAI SHAMINDER SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacant posts of Judges in the Supreme Court and High Courts in the country;

(b) year-wise number of cases (both Civil and Criminal) pending in the Supreme Court and various High Courts as on 30 June, 1988;

(c) the steps taken to implement the recommendations of the conference of Chief Justices that a rational co-relation be effected between the number of pending cases and number of Judges in each High Court so as to clear the arrears and raise the working days to at least 240 days in a year; and

(d) whether there is any difference in the average disposal of cases in various High Courts; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The requisite information as on 1.8.88 in respect of the Supreme Court and the High Courts is given in the Statement-I. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88]

(b) The information regarding year-wise pendency of regular hearing matters in the Supreme Court as on 1.1.88 is given in the Statement-II. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88] Pendency of cases as on 1.1.87 in the High Courts in terms of period of pendency is given in the Statement-III. [Placed in the Library. See No. LT. 6448/88]

(c) the concerned Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of certain High Courts were addressed in June 1985, requesting them to consider augmentation of Judge-strength of the High Courts so as to achieve a stage