

for a population of 10,000 as against 17,000 population prescribed under the current Policy. RBI accordingly has allotted such centres to banks depending upon their representation in the district/area on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the State Governments and as such the proposals received from individual banks have not been considered by RBI. The centres identified by the State Governments which did not conform to the norms laid down under the Policy could not be considered for allotment to any bank for opening bank offices. RBI has again asked banks to identify sufficient number of centres in deficit blocks. RBI initially advised the banks that the branches at the allotted centres should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Policy. However, in the context of Service Area Approach to rural lending, banks have been advised to open branches expeditiously to facilitate allocation of villages to such branches under service area approach.

Setting up of Gram Nyayalayas

2686. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 2 March, 1988 to Starred Question No. 129 regarding rural courts and state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision regarding the setting up of Gram Nyayalayas as per the recommendations of the Law Commission contained in its 114th Report;

(b) if so, the exact decision in this regard and the likely date by which these Nyayalayas would start functioning along with other relevant details regarding their jurisdiction and powers; and

(c) if not, the likely date by which a decision would be taken?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not possible to indicate a likely date for a decision, at the present stage.

Smuggling of Cattle from India to Bangladesh

2687. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been reports of large scale smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh across the border; and

(b) the number of vigilance Divisions of Customs, working on the India Bangladesh border to prevent smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Available reports indicate the existence of smuggling of cattle from India to Bangladesh across the border. However, there is no indication that such smuggling is on a large scale.

(b) The Customs and Central Excise Collectorate with Head quarters at Shillong has four Preventive Units located at Agartala, Karimganj, Dhubri and Shillong and the Customs Preventive Collectorate with head-quarters at Calcutta has three Preventive Divisions located at Siliguri, Krishna Nagar and Barasat, to detect and prevent smuggling along the Indo-Bangladesh border. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for the collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence actively assists these Units through its five Intelligence Cells at Krishnagore, Siliguri, Coochbehar, Silchar and Agartala under the control of Deputy Director of Revenue Intelligence at Calcutta.

Setting up of Mutual Funds

2688. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1681 on 6 August, 1987 regarding mutual funds and state:

(e) whether the State Bank of India has taken any action on Mutual Funds Scheme;

(b) if so, the exact steps initiated by the State Bank of India for the conducting of business permitted under the notification issued on 29 June, 1987 specifying the setting up or conducting a mutual fund as a form of business; and

(c) the details of any such schemes launched by the State Bank of India and other banks in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana and the Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that it launched its "Mutual Fund" in November, 1987 by constituting a trust with SBI as the Settlor and SBI Capital Markets Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of the Bank) as the Trustee.

The Mutual Fund set up by the SBI has so far launched two schemes, namely "The Magnum Regular Income Scheme 1987" and "The Magnum Tax Saving Scheme 1988-89" for mobilising investments from individuals and corporate investors.

The schemes launched by the Banks are open to investment by all Indian nationals including residents of the States of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab and Union Territories of Chandigarh and Delhi.

[*Translation*]

N.T.C. Showrooms in Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh

2689. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation propose to open show-rooms at some places in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh in the year 1988-89; and

(b) if so, the names of such places?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). NTC do not have any proposal to open any show-room in Almora and Pithoragarh districts of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1988-89.

Opening of Branches of Almora-Nainital Regional Rural Bank

2690. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places where the Almora-Nainital Regional Rural Bank propose to open its branches during 1988-89 and has applied for licences for that purpose,

(b) the dates on which it applied for the licences and the date by which the licences are likely to be given;

(c) whether some of the applications have been rejected; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has allotted the following 14 centres to Almora-Nainital Kshetriya Gramin Bank for opening bank branches:-

Almora District

1. Basaut
2. Sinora
3. Machhorh
4. Kandhar
5. Chhina
6. Bhola
7. Kanarchhina
8. Harsila