

1	2	3	4	5
Faridkot	Punjab & Sind Bank, Daroli Bhai Branch	27.6.88	3.93	—
Jalandhar	Punjab & Sind Bank, Kamam branch	11.7.88	0.04	—
TOTAL			8.32	

(b) Banks have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements so as to offer as little inducement to miscreants to rob banks and also to deter them from such attempts. This is a continuous process and security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time. Whenever further improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the banks. Depending on the risk factor involved, steps have been taken to appoint security guards, install appropriate alarm systems, deployment of ITBP personnel in important branches, etc.

Excise Exemption to Fishermen

2726. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has been repeatedly urging Union Government to grant excise duty exemption to the fishermen using machanised boats; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government in this regard and by when a decision in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). No such recommendation from the Government of Maharashtra has been received recently. However, requests have been received from various

quarters for grant of complete exemption from excise duty on diesel oil used by fishermen in machanised boats.

Certain excise duty concessions are available in respect of the diesel oil supplied to deep sea fishing vessels. The Government consider that the existing concessions are adequate.

Involvement of Private Sector in Indo-Pak Trade

2727. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA MORE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: (a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Pakistan has permitted its private sector to send their products to India without routing them through the Trade Corporation of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the estimated rise anticipated in the trade between the two countries as a result of this concession;

(c) whether Government propose to extend similar facility to the private sector in the country; and

(d) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to make any quantitative assessment as to whether this concession would result in an increase in trade between the two countries except to state

that the reduction in bureaucratic procedures may encourage Pakistani exporters to look more to India.

(c) and (d). The question of extending a similar facility to the Indian private sector trade does not arise as there are no such restrictions imposed on private trade by us especially for trade with Pakistan.

Insurance Scheme for Agriculture Labourers

2728. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced the introduction of Free Insurance Scheme for agricultural labourers on 16 May 1987;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has been implemented by the Life Insurance Corporation during the financial year 1987-88; and

(c) if so, the salient features of the Scheme and the number of landless agricultural labourers who have been covered under the scheme during 1987-88 and the targets for 1988-89 and 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Prime Minister had announced on 16 May, 1987 that a free Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers would be devised soon.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Life Insurance Corporation of India accordingly formulated a Group Insurance Scheme which came into force with effect from 15th August, 1987.

(c) All landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18 to 60 throughout India are covered under this Scheme for a sum assured of Rs. 1,000/- payable by LIC to the nominee in the event of death of the labourer covered. The labourer for the purpose of

coverage under this Scheme would be identified through Village Level Officer/Talati/Patwari. For such identification the name of the covered labourer should not appear as land holder in the revenue records and he should not have inheritable right to agricultural land and his wage should be paid as manual labourer in agriculture irrespective of the mode of payment. He should be employed in one or more of the following agricultural occupations:

(a) Farm including cultivation and tillage of soil and/or

(b) Production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any agricultural commodity.

The entire premium cost of the Scheme is borne by the Central Government. The number of landless agricultural labourers who are automatically covered under the Scheme is estimated as 3 crores.

Issue of Rice Export Licences

2729. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Rice Export Licences have been issued by Government; and

(b) if so, the reasons for issuing these licences despite the shortage of rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). As per the current policy, export of Basmati Rice is permitted under Open General Licence subject to Minimum Export Price of Rs. 7500/- per MT. Export of Non-basmati Rice is permitted within a limited ceiling. However, no ceiling for the year 1988-89 has been released.

Export of 7590 MT of Non-Basmati Rice has been allowed in 3 cases during the