

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Japan extends financial assistance to India annually on the basis of a shelf of project proposals posed to the Government of Japan. The pledge of assistance is made at the Aid India Consortium Meeting generally held in Paris in June each year.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The assistance from Japan is admissible for procurement not only from Japan but also from developing countries as specifically defined for this purpose.

**Diversification and Specialisation
in Operational Functioning of Bank
Branches in Rural Areas**

8290. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken any steps to introduce the process of diversification and specialisation in the operational functioning of bank branches in the rural areas; and

(b) if so the details thereof and the date with effect from which it has been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not contemplated any steps for diversification or specialisation in the operational functioning of commercial bank branches in rural areas. However, with a view to bringing about a qualitative improvement in the lending operations of rural bank branches, a new approach to rural lending viz. Service Area Approach has been launched from 1.4 1989

Under this approach, on an average, 15-25 villages would be allotted to a rural or semi-urban bank branch with a view to bring about an orderly and planned disbursement of credit. The bank branches will first conduct a survey of the villages allotted to them and prepare village profiles indicating the types of activities carried on in this service areas and having potential for lending. On the basis of village profiles branches will prepare Annual Credit plans for lending for different identified activities, keeping in view the infrastructural and other facilities available and proposed to be created.

**Role of Regional Rural Banks
Under Designated Service Area Approach**

8291. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks have also been allotted any role under the Designated Service Area Approach by the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the nature and scope thereof and the number of branches proposed to be opened by the Regional Rural Banks in Himachal Pradesh under this approach?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve bank of India (RBI) has reported that in terms of guidelines issued by them, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have also been allotted specified number of villages under the Service Area Approach to rural lending.

(b) Since most of the RRBs have adequate number of branches, it was decided by RBI not to allot any more centres to RRBs except to a few such RRBs which do not have the minimum number of branches to

function effectively. Since both the RRBs functioning in Himachal Pradesh have sufficient number of branches, they were not allotted additional branches under the Service Area Approach.

Family Courts

8292. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have already set up the family courts for speedy disposal of family disputes particularly those relating to divorce etc.;

(b) if so, the number of courts already set up as on 31 March, 1989, State-wise;

(c) whether some more courts are proposed to be set up during the financial year 1989-90; and

(d) if so, the number thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 31st march, 1989, four Family Courts in Uttar Pradesh, three in Rajasthan and one each in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been set up.

(c) and (d). Setting up of family courts in primarily the concern of State Governments.

Incentives for Bringing to Notice Cases of Income Tax Evasion

8293. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether wide publicity has been given by Government to the effect that where

tax evasion under the Income-tax Act is brought to the notice of Government, the informer will be paid incentive;

(b) if so, the number of cases of evasion detected by Government on this basis between January 1988 and 1989 together with the amount recovered; and

(c) the amount that has been paid to the informers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The scheme for rewarding income-tax informers has now been in existence for the last many years. People belonging to different strata of society have been furnishing information about tax evasion to the Income-tax Department in expectation of monetary rewards. This shows that the people are aware of this scheme.

(b) The Income-tax Department employs various method to detect tax evasion. It gathers information from various sources. Useful information furnished by informants are also utilised. However, mere furnishing of information by an informant and the initial action taken by the Income-tax Department does not necessarily establish tax evasion with reference to his information. The initial action is followed up by detailed investigation, through probe and examination and scrutiny of records and evidence. The final position regarding detection and establishment of tax evasion in a case on the basis of an informant's information can be known only after finalisation of all the relevant proceedings.

The Income-tax Department conducted 9627 searches during 1st January, 1988 to 31 March, 1989 and seized prima facie unaccounted assets worth Rs. 209.27 crores.

(c) A final reward can be paid to an