

(b) whether any monitoring is done of the legal expenses of these banks;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have issued a direction to the nationalised banks to strive for negotiated settlement or compromise with parties than to enter into litigation; 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 (e). Data relating to legal expenses incurred by nationalised banks exclusively for recovery of loans is not readily available. However, the consolidated expenditure of law charge incurred by 20 nationalised banks increased by Rs. 2.10 crores in 1987 as compared to 1986.

The increase in the legal expenses of public sector banks is mainly attributable to increased volume of operations, increase in the number of suits for recovery of their dues and upward revision of lawyers' fees and other legal charges. To avoid litigation vis-a-vis legal expenses, the banks try persuasion and all other possible methods for recovery of their dues. Recourse to litigation is taken by banks as a last resort to protect their interest. The Reserve Bank of India have advised banks from time to time to exercise close supervision and control over advances and monitor the sticky advances so as to reduce the incidence of litigation.

[*Translation*]

Writ petitions and other cases pending in High Courts

7407. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of writ petitions and other cases pending in High Courts is constantly increasing and the number of pending writ petitions is more than civil and criminal cases at present;

(b) whether decisions of all the cases in High Courts are inordinately delayed due to the excessive number of writ petitions;

(c) whether writs are admitted even in those cases where alternative remedy is available; and

(d) the concrete steps proposed to be taken by Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The number of Writ Petitions and other cases pending in High Courts is increasing. It cannot be said that the number of pending Writ Petitions is more than Civil and Criminal cases in all the High Courts.

(b) The delay is on account of various factors.

(c) Writs are not generally admitted in cases where an alternative remedy is available.

(d) A Committee of 3 Chief Justices has recently been constituted by the Government to study the problem of arrears in Courts and the suggest remedial measures.

[*English*]

Bank Loans to Women

7408. SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether husband's liability is a bar for the wife to have financial accommodation