

1008061 borrowal accounts respectively. This works out to a percentage of .60 to the total credit as at the end of December, 1976 against the minimum target of $\frac{1}{2}$ percent fixed under the Scheme.

(5) As a part of the Lead Bank Scheme, banks have drawn up credit plans for 380 districts out of the 382 in the country. These plans are also being implemented by the banks with a view to bringing about the economic uplift of the weaker sections in a systematic and integrated manner, which is in keeping with the overall national objectives and priorities.

(6) Banks are opening a larger number of branches in rural and un-banked areas with a view to enlarge their coverage. The number of rural and semi-urban branches increased from 15863 as on December, 1976 to 18585 as on December, 1977.

The total amount of credit flowing to the neglected sectors from the public sector banks has been increasing over time, as will be seen from the table below:-

	Amount outstanding	No. of Borrowal accounts
(Rs. in crores)		
June 1975	1998 90	3302245
June 1976	2528 47	4722450
June 1977	3146 43	6564243

Tobacco (Virginia and Bidi) purchased by N.F.E.D.

2806. SHRI DAJIBA DESAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what quantity of Tobacco (Virginia and Bidi) is purchased by N.F.E.D. in 1977-78;

(b) prices paid to cultivators; and

(c) quantity of Tobacco purchased from traders and cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE, IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND CO-OPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) to (c). The NAFED (National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation) did not purchase any quantity of tobacco (Virginia and Bidi) during the financial year 1977-78.

However, in June 1978 NAFED was asked by the Government to buy up to 25,000 metric tonnes of non-virginia tobacco, including bidi tobacco, from the growers through Cooperatives and State Cooperative Marketing Federations. The price to be paid to the growers for Grade 3 and Grade 4 bidi tobacco having a leaf content of 80 percent is Re. 1/- per kg. For higher leaf content, the price is to be proportionately higher. As on 24th July, 1978, 4,899 metric tonnes of bidi tobacco had been procured by NAFED in Gujarat from the growers and nothing from the traders.

In so far as virginia tobacco is concerned, it is the STC and not the NAFED, who have been asked by the Government to make purchases.

Grant of loan to Private Entrepreneurs for construction of Hotels

2807. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for grant of loans to private entrepreneurs for construction of hotels etc. and the terms and conditions;

(b) the number and amount of loans sanctioned and the names of the parties in various States who have been granted loans in order of the magnitude of loans granted; and