

by a manufacturer in a financial year;

(ii) Soft drinks upto a value of Rs. 5 lakhs of clearances by or on behalf of a manufacturer whose clearances in terms of value did not exceed Rs. 15 lakhs in the preceding financial year has fully been exempted from the payment of excise duty.

(c) Duty at the rate of 55 per cent *ad valorem* is leviable generally on aerated waters containing blended flavouring concentrates which are manufactured by very large companies and consumed by economically better off people

Banks Lending through Cooperative Societies

805. SHRI M. V. CHANDERSHEKHARA MURTY :

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Union Government have expressed their concern over the slow progress made by banks towards increasing their lending through Cooperative Societies;

(b) if so, whether Government have also pointed out to the banks that the performance under the village development programme is also not satisfactory; and

(c) if so, what steps are being considered by Government to improve the working of the banks in the above programmes?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to Village Adoption Scheme taken up by the commercial banks for integrated development of the village economy in all its aspects in a phased manner. The working of the Scheme remains under constant

watch of the Reserve Bank of India. The following statement indicates the progress of the Scheme:—

	No. of Villages	No. of A/cs financed	Amount outstanding (Ks. crores)
Dec. 1976	45382	11,73,310	234.08
June 1977	49700	13,08,003	249.80
Dec. 1977	54918	15,23,022	297.21

(c) The Government of India has requested the State Government as well as the public sector banks to resolve the difficulties in the way of smooth flow of commercial banks' credit through primary Agricultural Credit Societies, especially inasmuch as it concerns the taking over of the overdues of the societies proposed to be ceded to the banks.

Overdrafts by States

806. SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Governments are barred from 1st October, 1978 from running overdrafts with R.B.I. as per Central directive; and

(b) if so, what is the total amount drawn as overdraft by the States upto 30th September, 1978?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL) : (a) A scheme for regulation of States' overdrafts has been brought into effective operation from 1st October, 1978. At the same time, the normal authorised ways and means limits available to the States from the Reserve Bank of India have been doubled to provide a larger margin to the States for temporary imbalances in the flow of receipts and

pace of expenditure. The scheme provides that, as soon as a State Government has availed of 75 per cent of the revised authorized normal ways and means limit, the Reserve Bank of India will caution the State Government and if, despite such a caution, the State Government's account is overdrawn, for more than 7 working days, the RBI will automatically suspend payments which will not be resumed until after the overdraft has been cleared.

(b) The overdrafts of the State Governments on the RBI reflect their daily cash position and vary in magnitude from day-to-day. Their quantum can, therefore, be indicated with reference to a particular date only. On the 30th September 1978, only two States viz. West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh were in overdraft on the Reserve Bank of India, to the extent of Rs. 1.15 crores and Rs. 2.25 crores respectively.

Clearing of Outstanding Overdrafts of States

807. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to clear of the outstanding overdrafts by States by Special loans; and

(b) if so, the total amount of special loan sanctioned and how much to each States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) It has been decided to extend to the State Governments special loans towards clearance of their actual deficits as on 31-3-1978.

(b) A statement showing the limits of special loans State-wise is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Limits of special medium term loans to States towards clearance of their deficits as on the 31st March, 1978—

	(Rs. crores)
1. Bihar .	79.26
2. Kerala .	14.77
3. Madhya Pradesh .	65.60
4. Manipu	4.45
5. Nagaland	8.80
6. Orissa .	12.98
7. Punjab	68.36
8. Rajasthan	14.89
9. Tripura	1.38
10. Uttar Pradesh	175.18
11. West Bengal	105.10

TOTAL .	550.77

भारत-नेपाल सीमा पर एक यात्री से अफ्रीम की छड़ का पकड़ा जाना

808. श्री राज नारायण : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान इस आशय के समाचार की ओर गया है कि भारत-नेपाल सीमा के समीप नटवाना रेलवे स्टेशन पर शनिवार 21 अक्टूबर, को उतरे एक यात्री से एक अफ्रीम की छड़ बरामद की गई थी ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसी गतिविधियां रोकने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाही कर रही है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतीश अग्रवाल) : (क) सरकार को मिली रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, 21 अक्टूबर, 1978 को नौतनवा रेलवे स्टेशन पर अफ्रीम की कोई छड़ नहीं पकड़ी गयी थी परन्तु सीमाशुल्क