

Formulation of Jute policy

764. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a comprehensive jute policy; and

(b) if so, whether Government are in a position to indicate the thrust of the policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is too early a stage to make a statement on this subject.

"Statistics of R.B.I. outdated"

765. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Statistics of R.B.I. outdated" published in the 'Economic Times' (New Delhi Edition) of 23rd May, 1980;

(b) whether any enquiry has been instituted as to the causes of delayed publication of the half-yearly 'Banking Statistics' of period ending December 1977 on 15th March, 1980;

(c) if so, what are the reasons which led to the delayed printing of the said publication; and

(d) what steps have been taken to ensure that these publications are printed in time and whether any time-limit has been fixed to publish without further delay the Banking Statistics pertaining to the subsequent half-yearly issues of 1978 and 1979?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India have reported that the main reason for delays in the publication

of banking statistics is the late receipt of returns from some of the over 30,000 branches which are required to submit these returns. In order to ensure adequate coverage, most of the defaulting branches have to be approached individually involving considerable time and effort. The scrutiny, editing and processing of such a voluminous data and printing of the brochures also take considerable time. Steps have, however, been taken by the Reserve Bank recently to reduce the time lag in the scrutiny and processing of data in the Bank. Measures have also been taken for cutting down the time taken by the branches in the submission of the returns. The statistical data for June 1978 and December 1978 are expected to be released by the Reserve Bank within the next 3-4 months.

Firm commitments from Singapore firms for importing traditional and non-traditional items

766. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received firm commitments from Singapore firms for importing a wide range of traditional and non-traditional items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Decline in production of equal and unequal angles and channels

767. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the decline in the production of unequal angles, equal angles and channels by