

the banks and actually siphon the money for use elsewhere; and

(b) If so, the details regarding such small and medium scale sector units which had become sick and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MANGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Sickness in industrial units may be due to various reasons, diversion of funds by management also being one of them. The banks have taken a number of steps to prevent, to the extent possible, sickness in industrial units. Where the sick units are found to be potentially viable the banks consider a nursing programme for them. Such nursing assistance is closely monitored by the Banks. According to the latest data available as on the 30th June 1979, the number of industrial units which were sick for various reasons and enjoyed bank credit of Rs 1 crore and above was 345 and the number of small scale industrial units which were sick for various reasons was approximately 20,700.

Air Flight between Bombay and Varanasi

1627. SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Varanasi is not only famous from the tourism point of view but also for Varanasi Cloth and carpets;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the fact that apart from the large number of tourists, considerable number of foreign buyers are also regularly coming to Varanasi to purchase clothes and carpets; and

(c) whether in view of the above, Government propose to consider starting a direct flight between Bombay and Varanasi?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir

(c) Indian Airlines has no plans at present, for introducing a direct service between Bombay and Varanasi.

एक हजार २० के करेंसी नोटों का प्रचलन बन्द किया जाना

1628. श्री कृष्ण दत्त सुल्तानपुरी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) एक हजार रुपये के करेंसी नोटों का प्रचलन कौन सी तिथि से बन्द किया गया था और प्रचलन बन्द किए जाने के क्या कारण थे ; और

(ख) प्रचलन बन्द होने के कारण बैंकों में कितने मूल्य के नोटों को जमा किया गया है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री झार० बेंकटरामन): (क) 16 जनवरी, 1978 की शाम को राष्ट्रपति द्वारा जारी किए गए अध्यादेश जिसका नाम "उच्च मूल्य-वर्ग के बैंक नोट (विमुद्रीकरण) अध्यादेश 1978" था, के द्वारा 1000 रुपये; 5000 रुपये और 10,000 रुपये के ऊंचे मूल्य वर्ग के करेंसी नोटों का उस दिन के बाद से विमुद्रीकरण कर दिया गया। इस विकेन्द्रीकरण का उद्देश्य अर्थ-व्यवस्था के लिए हानिकारक कारबार अथवा गैर-कानूनी प्रयाजनों के लिए धन के गैर-कानूनी हस्तांतरण पर रोक लगाना था।

(ख) 24 जनवरी, 1978 को निश्चित तारीख के कुल 125.02 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य के ऊंचे मूल्य-वर्ग के करेंसी नोट बैंकों और सरकारी कोषों से श्रेयणाओं (64.95 करोड़ रुपये) और जनता द्वारा श्रेयणापत्रों (60.07 करोड़ रुपये) के रूप में जमा कराए गए।

ती और पचास रुपये के नोटों को बन्द
किये जाने का सुझाव

1629. श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा : क्या
वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि मुद्रास्फीति
को रोकने के लिए कुछ बड़े पर्यवसायियों
ने 100 रुपये और 50 रुपये के नोटों को
बन्द करने का सुझाव दिया था; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उस पर सरकार की
क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

वित्त मंत्री (श्री आर. वेंकटरमन) :

(क) सरकार की इस बात की जानकारी
नहीं है कि कुछ प्रमुख पर्यवसायियों ने
मुद्रास्फीति पर काबू पाने के लिए 100
रुपये और 50 रुपये के नोटों का प्रचलन
बन्द करने का सुझाव दिया है।

(ख) यह प्रश्न उपस्थित नहीं
होता।

Setting up of regional rural banks during Sixth Five Year Plan

1630. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether 170 more regional rural
banks during the Sixth Five Year Plan
are being set up;

(b) if so, how many districts will be
benefited;

(c) the district that will be covered;
and

(d) whether any incentives are be-
ing given to the nationalised banks for
setting up these regional rural banks?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MA-
BANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b).
According to the projections made for
the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980—85)
105 more Regional Rural Banks are
proposed to be set up bringing the
total number of such banks to 170

covering 270 districts by the end of
March, 1985.

(c) The identification of locations/
districts for opening new Regional
Rural Banks is a continuous process
and the locations are decided by the
Government on the recommendations
of the Steering Committee for Re-
gional Rural Banks in the Reserve
Bank of India.

(d) The Regional Rural Banks are
sponsored by the public sector banks.
The Central Government, the concern-
ed State Government, a sponsoring
bank which is usually a public sector
bank contribute to the share capital
of the regional rural banks in the
ratio of 50:15:35. No incentive is being
given to the nationalised banks for
setting up these banks. In fact,
under the Regional Rural Banks
Act the sponsoring banks are required
to aid and assist their sponsored Re-
gional Rural Banks in the initial years
of their operation.

**Setback to Indian tea in international
Export Market**

1631. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN
DEV: Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian tea is facing se-
rious setback in the International Ex-
port Market due to cut-throat competi-
tion in prices from other International
competitors like Ceylon, China etc; and

(b) if so, what steps his Ministry
propose to take to safeguard the export
of Indian tea in International Market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI
PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No,
Sir. Despite competition from other
ten exporting countries, the export of
tea from India during January to
September, 1980 is provisionally pla-
ced at 151.46 million kgs. as against
137.49 million kgs during the corres-
ponding period of last year, thus
showing an increase of about 14 mil-
lion kgs.

(b) To safeguard our tea exports in
the world market, the following steps
have been taken by Government: