

its Branch Manager at Amravati (Maharashtra) has recklessly granted advances to a large number of persons during the years 1980 and 1981 in total disregard of eligible criteria and laid down rules and procedures of the bank for sanctioning advances under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme. On the basis of a complaint made by the bank the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered a case. The Manager of the branch has been suspended.

US Call to World Bank not to double its lending for energy to developing countries

4985. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that the US administration has called on the World Bank to scrap plans to double its lending for energy products over the next five years and instead to press developing countries to seek more private exploration;

(b) if so, whether this will affect the plans of the developing countries including India; and

(c) if so, to what extent and what measures Government of India are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) The Government of India has no official information in the matter either from the US Government or from the World Bank. A United States Treasury Department study on World Bank lending to the energy sector, has, however, come to notice. This study concludes that so far World Bank lending for energy has not helped attract private enterprise to oil and gas exploration and development. It suggests that the World Bank could play a catalytic role in this behalf. The study does not call on the World Bank to scrap plans for larger lending to the energy sector.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Protocol signed between Maharashtra Government and Private sector Dubai Transport company

4986. SHRI R. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a protocol was recently signed between the Maharashtra Government and the Private Sector Dubai Transport company for joint projects to improve transport conditions in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details of the projects and total outlay thereon; and

(c) when the work under the projects will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c) There have been press reports about the matter. The Central Government do not have information in this regard and a report has been called for from the Government of Maharashtra.

Drive Against smugglers Hoarders and Economic Offenders

4987. SHRI ERA ENBARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reason why there is a great slackness in the drive against the smugglers, hoarders and economic offenders similar to that during the emergency taking the urgency of the situation;

(b) whether the smugglers and anti-social elements let out by the previous Government have changed their minds or they continue more vigorously their original offences.

(c) whether Government are keeping a close watch on their activities; and

(d) whether any stringent special law is going to come up before Parliament to come down heavily on such economic offenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA): (a) There

is no slackness in the drive against the smugglers, hoarders and economic offenders.

(b) and (c). The enforcement agencies of the Government maintain a close watch on the activities of smugglers, including those who were under detention earlier under the COFEPOSA Act, appropriate action under the law including action under the COFEPOSA Act is taken against such persons.

(d) Government is keeping a close watch on the situation regarding economic offences and such measures as are considered necessary from time to time will be taken.

Loan Given By LIC to General Secretary of Agency of Voluntary Associations

4988. SHRI NAVAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that LIC has given a loan of Rs. 1,00,000 to the general Secretary of Agency of Voluntary Association for Rural Development;

(b) is it also a fact that this loan has been taken on the plea that he was an employee of the AVARD though he has been elected to this post for various terms of two years each; and

(c) did LIC verify facts and the purpose before sanctioning the loan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (c). In 1979, the LIC granted a mortgage loan of Rs. 80,000/- under the Own Your Home Scheme to Shri Amaresh Chandra Sen, General Secretary of the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development. The loan was granted to Shri Sen in his personal capacity for constructing a residential building on a plot belonging to him. In considering his loan application, the LIC took into account the employer's certificate issued by the Accounts Officer, AVARD, stating the date on which

Shri Sen joined service with AVARD, his present consolidated salary and the fact that the employment was contractual.

Production and Export of Rice-choker Oil

4989. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) factual figures about the rice-choker oil production during the last ten years;

(b) how much export thereof has been made during this period;

(c) how much expenditure has been incurred on increase in the production and export of this item; and

(d) what steps are being contemplated by Government to increase the production and export of this item?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN): (a) According to the figures compiled by the Solvent Extractors Association of India, production of Rice Bran Oil in the country from 1970-71 onwards has been as follows:

Year	Production in tonnes
1970-71	21,000
1971-72	30,000
1972-73	25,000
1973-74	24,000
1974-75	23,000
1975-76	36,000
1976-77	70,000
1977-78	80,000
1978-79	1,01,000
1979-80	1,12,850
1980-81 (Estimated)	1,28,500