

Adoption of Villages by Nationalised Banks

808. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the number of villages in the country which have been adopted by various nationalised banks ;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated to be followed by nationalised banks in this regard ; and

(c) whether Government propose to make it obligatory on all nationalised banks to adopt a certain number of villages with a view to intensify developmental activities and generate employment in these villages ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) : As at the end of December, 1980 the total number of villages adopted by the public sector banks is reported to be 106385.

(b) : The Reserve Bank of India have issued certain guidelines to the public sector banks to ensure that the scheme promotes integrated development of the village economy by meeting credit needs of agriculturalists and small borrowers on a schematic basis.

(c) : The Scheme is implemented by the concerned banks keeping in view various relevant factors. There is no proposal at present to make the scheme obligatory on the banks.

India's Offer to Iraq for supply of Iron Ore

809. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iraq has turned down India's offer to supply iron ore from the Donimalai mines in Karnataka ;

(b) if so, what were the broad out-lines of the proposals made to Iraq by India ; and

(c) the reasons why the Iraq Government has turned down the Indian offer ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) : There has been no offer to supply iron ore from Donimalai mines to Iraq. The question of its being turned down does not, therefore, arise.

Scheme of Central Bank of India for catching Fish along Goa Coast Line

810. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any evaluation has been done in regard to the scheme initiated by the Central Bank of India for fish catching along the Goa coast line ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Goa fishermen have to sell the catch at a much lower price because of lack of storage facility ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to remedy the situation ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) The Central Bank of India had conducted an evaluation study in January 1980 to assess the impact of advances made by it to fishermen on the economic conditions of the beneficiaries.

(b) The study revealed that the main reason for the fishermen obtaining low price for their catch was due to absence of a direct contact between them and the processing plants/purchasing companies. No difficulty had been felt by the fishermen in the sale of fish due to lack of storage facilities.