

Parliament to Finance Minister concerning service matters of SC/ST employees working in Public Sector Banks are not replied to within a reasonable time even after reminders ;

(c) if so, the reasons for the delays ; and

(d) the steps he proposes to take to streamline the functioning of SC/ST Cell in the Banking Division of his Ministry ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) : (a) to (d). The representations received from employees associations are forwarded to the banks, which are autonomous bodies, for appropriate action. Where it is found that Government guidelines have not been followed, bank managements are advised to take remedial measures. There has, however, been no practice of entering into correspondence with employees associations. As regards the letters received from the Members of Parliament, whereas action is initiated immediately, the reply is sent only after the issues raised in these letters are examined thoroughly in consultation with the Bank. Sometimes, the contents of the letters relate to all the public sector banks and therefore, the information has to be collected from the banks and consolidated which takes time and the reply to the Members of Parliament obviously gets delayed. There are now 28 Public Sector Banks having over 30,000 branches throughout the country. The banks, in many cases, have to collect information from its branches spread all over the country which is a time consuming process. In some cases the issues are such that they necessitate a dialogue with the employees union. In the case of almost all the letters received from the Members of Parliament an acknowledgement is sent by the Minister's Office immediately and the final reply is sent after all the necessary actions

have been taken in regard to the various points raised in these letters.

Repayment of Loans from Pure Drinks (New Delhi)

4660. SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the loans from Pure Drinks (New Delhi) to its two directors and from Southern Bottlers and other associated companies ;

(b) what is the stipulation of repayment ;

(c) what assets have been acquired from these loans ; and

(d) are these interest free loans, if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA): (a) to (d). The subject matter of the question falls within the jurisdiction of the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. The information is, however, being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Increase In Export Earnings from Agricultural Commodities

4661. SHRI SATYANDRA NARAYAN SINHA:
SHRI B. V. DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been steep increase in export earnings from Agricultural commodities during the first six months of this year ending September, 1981 ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether the target for agricultural exports of the entire financial