

sary inputs with Advance Licence under the Duty Exemption Scheme.

(b) The price of imported rubber is fixed by the pricing committee of the Government taking into account certain factors such as the prevailing domestic price for rubber, international price, incidental charges for STC in their import transaction etc.

SC|ST cells in various administrative offices of Punjab National Bank

9251. SHRI N. E. HORO:

SHRI RAM AWADH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Cells in Head Office, Zonal Offices, Regional Offices and other Administrative Offices in Punjab National Bank; if so, what are the functions of the Cells;

(b) whether these SC|ST Cells have taken up any on-the-spot inspection of rosters in Head Office, Zonal Offices, Regional Office and other Administrative Offices;

(c) if not, what were the reasons for not taking up such inspections by the Cells so far and what steps the Bank proposes to take in this matter;

(d) how much sanctioned staff has been provided in the SC|ST Cells;

(e) whether Liaison Officers have been posted in these SC|ST Cells in various Administrative Offices of Punjab National Bank; if not, the reasons thereof and steps the Bank proposes to take in this regard; and

(f) whether Government had considered the desirability of appointing Liaison Officers from SC|ST officers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (f). The Punjab National Bank has reported that while there is no exclusive Cell, the Chief (Selection & Training) at its Head Office and the Regional Managers at its various Regional Headquarters have been appointed Liaison Officers for dealing with matters relating to implementation of Government orders regarding reservation for SC|ST. This work is attended to by the Selection and Training Division at the head office and Staff Departments at the various regional offices.

The Bank has reported that the rosters are inspected periodically by the Liaison Officers. It is not necessary that Liaison Officers themselves should be from SC|ST.

Suspension of R.B.I. Squeeze on Resources of Scheduled Commercial Banks

9252. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has suspended its squeeze on resources of scheduled commercial banks;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) is what extent it will enable the banking system to deploy the resources among the needy industrial and other borrowers;

(d) whether it is a fact that the industries namely commercial vehicles, tractors and sugar have been identified for assistance;

(e) if so, what is the extent of allocations made by the RBI and the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation in respect of each identified industry; and

(f) how commercial banks propose to find resources to assist the sugar and commercial vehicle industries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). Some modifications in credit policy have been announced by the Reserve Bank of India on April 8, 1982, to enable banks to overcome their liquidity problems.

The relevant modifications are:—

(i) Reduction in the cash reserve ratio from 7.75 per cent to 7.25 per cent with effect from April 9, 1982;

(ii) Reduction with effect from April 9, 1982 in the cash reserve ratio from 7.75 per cent to 3 per cent in respect of deposits under non-resident (external) rupee accounts; and

(iii) Liberalisation of the refinance entitlement with effect from April 9, 1982 for food procurement credit from 30 per cent to 50 per cent of the excess over the base level of Rs. 2,200 crores upto Rs. 2,800 crores and 100 per cent over the level of Rs. 2,600 crores.

The above modifications will enable Banks to be in a better position to meet the needs of seasonal industries and other vital sectors.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Discretionary refinance facility is provided by the Reserve Bank taking into account the overall liquidity position of the bank and as such the refinance cannot be specifically identified with lending to specific sectors. In recent months the Reserve Bank of India has provided discretionary refinance of over Rs. 200 crores to banks to enable them to meet the gen-

uine credit requirements of seasonal industries (such as sugar, tobacco and cashew) and other vital sectors, including tractors, trucks and exports.

Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation had aimed to provide Rs. 114 crores as refinance for tractors during 1981-82. In the context of the recent liquidity problems faced by the banks, ARDC has, as a very special case, agreed to provide interim finance of about Rs. 36 crores to commercial banks and about Rs. 34 crores to State Land Development Banks for purchase of tractors.

(f) With the modifications in the credit policy announced on April 8, 1982, the banks will be in a better position to meet genuine credit requirements of sugar and commercial vehicle industries.

Loss of Sugar Quota

9253. SHRI MANMOHAN TUDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has lost its sugar quota of 25,000 tonnes following its failure to deliver this quantity to the EEC last year;

(b) what are the main reasons of failure;

(c) whether India has pleaded before EEC to reconsider the matter; and

(d) the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d). In terms of an Agreement between the European Economic Community and the Republic of India on cane sugar, India was entitled to an annual export quota of 25,000 tonnes of sugar to the EEC market. If during any delivery