

**Meeting of Rural Needs by Banks**

4431. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that even though Government have nearly 4882 bank offices located in different parts of the country to finance agriculturists, artisans and small entrepreneurs in the rural areas, they are not able to meet fully the rural needs of the people;

(b) whether Government have drawn up any plan to set more new offices in rural areas to ensure that the financial requirements of the persons have met in full and their economic development accelerated; and

(c) whether any study has been made to find out how deposits in the rural areas are being mobilised in the rural sector and parts of these deposits are being used for the developmental works of the areas from where these deposits are being mobilised, particularly with reference to Maharashtra ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to the branches of regional rural banks which were 4795 in number as at the end of December, 1981. Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are being set up mainly to meet the credit needs of weaker sections such as small/marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans etc. As at the end of December, 1981, the 107 Regional Rural Banks in position then had opened 4795 branches, mobilised Rs. 336 crores in deposits and their outstanding loans amounted to Rs. 407 crores in over 29 lakh borrowal accounts. More than 60 per cent of their outstanding

advances are to the small/marginal farmers, landless labourers for agricultural purposes.

At present, there are 121 regional rural banks covering 205 districts in 19 States of the country. It has been decided to increase the number of such banks to 170 covering 270 districts by the end of Sixth Five Year Plan (March 1985). The number of branches of these banks is also expected to go up from the existing 4795 as at the end of December, 1981 to 8200 by the end of the Plan. The average credit-deposit ratio of 107 Regional Rural Banks for which data is available was 121 per cent as at the end of December, 1981.

In Maharashtra at present only one Regional Rural Bank namely Marathwada Gramin Bank is functioning. As at the end of December, 1981, this bank had advanced Rs. 8.23 crores to nearly 21 thousand beneficiaries. The credit-deposit ratio of the bank works out to 148 per cent.

**Alleged Tax Evasion by Calcutta Firms**

4432. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that of late some of the Calcutta firms have successfully managed to dupe income tax authorities to the tune of not less than Rs. 1.5 crores every year by way of non-payment of taxes by fraudulently trying to show that they have sold the goods in Sikkim, where as the goods were actually sold in Calcutta;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as a result of this there is a fall in collection of taxes in Calcutta from the business houses; and