

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereon ; and

(f) whether complaints about non-payment of sanctioned loans to weaker sections, while charging instalment payments for unpaid loans against Madhubani and other R.R. Banks had been made; if so, steps taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : (a) to (c) The lending operations of all the Regional Rural Banks are primarily directed towards supporting productive endeavours of borrowers belonging to the weaker sections of the community in all the sectors of the rural economy. All Regional Rural Banks are expected to endeavour for promoting self-employment ventures. It is not, however, considered advisable to restrict the lending operations of any Regional Rural Bank to any particular are or type of activity as it would deprive people undertaking other types of activities of the credit support from that bank.

(d) and (e) Presumably the reference is to Hon'ble Member's own suggestion that Regional Rural Banks be allowed to lend upto Rs. 50,000 for a self-employment venture.

There is no ceiling on the amount of loan that a Regional Rural Bank can give for productive ventures of eligible borrowers. The ceiling of Rs. 25,000 relates only to loans under Composite Loan Scheme for artisans, village and cottage industries. If any productive venture of an eligible borrower requires credit support of a larger size, the Regional Rural Bank can extend such support outside the Composite Loan Scheme.

(f) A complaint dated 22.8.1983 received from the Hon'ble Member in regard to Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank has been enquired into. The report of the enquiry has been recently received and is being examined for appropriate action.

Illegal Import of Beef Tallow

**862. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD :**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether as reported in the 'Indian Express' of 10 September, 1983, illegal import of beef tallow by more firms has lately come to light;

(b) if so, how many such cases have so far been registered ; and

(c) what effective steps are being taken to prevent such imports of beef tallow by vanaspati manufacturers and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Some more cases of alleged unauthorised import have since been referred to CBI for investigation. The total number of cases so far sent to CBI is eleven, out of which CBI has already registered FIRs in 8 cases.

(c) Import of animal tallow has already been banned for any use what-so-ever. Use of animal tallow in the manufacture of Vanaspati is not allowed.

Export of Goods to USSR

863. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether during his recent visit to the USSR, that country agreed to enter into contracts for about Rs. 200 crores worth of goods from India with a view to balance the trade between the two countries; and

(b) if so, the details of the goods to be exported to that country under the contemplated agreement indicating the quantum and value thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b)

During the course of the visit of Commerce Minister to the USSR in September, 1983, the Soviet Union agreed to make purchases before the end of 1983 of certain goods for a value of about Rs. 200 crores, under the Trade Protocol for 1983. It is understood that they have since concluded contract for a value of over Rs. 150 crores, for purchase of Indian goods like tea, cardamom, raw opium, goat skins, shoe uppers, jute bags, jute cloth, knitwear, hosiery etc. We have been assured that further contracting will be done during the current year against the 1983 Trade Plan.

Purchase of Aircraft for A.I. and I.A.

864. SHRI N.K. SHEJWALKAR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the basis on which the decision for purchasing a particular Aircraft is taken ;

(b) the plan for purchasing the Aircraft for Air India and Indian Airlines for the coming five years ;

(c) whether any assessment of the traffic is being made ; and

(d) if so, what it is and how it relates to the purchase of Aircraft ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHED ALAM KHAN): (a) The decision to purchase a particular aircraft is taken after an overall technical and economic evaluation of several alternative types of aircraft of suitable size and range. The size and range of the aircraft are determined on the basis of the projected operations of the airline, the additional capacity requirements, intensity of operations, market demands, etc. Some of the criteria taken into account in arriving at the purchase decision are the technical performance of the aircraft, payload capacity, fuel efficiency, price of the aircraft, cost of operations, relative economics of the different types of aircraft, etc.

(b) Both Air India and Indian Airlines are presently in the process of evaluating different types of aircraft. Purchase decisions and the phasing thereof would be considered on completion of the exercises.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. An assessment of the traffic potential and its projected growth are essential factors taken into account in determining the type of aircraft to be purchased. Present indications are that there would be a substantial growth in the coming years in the traffic carried by both the Air Corporations.

Raising of Various Funds in Border Roads Organisation without Proper Receipt and Authority

865. SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that various funds called, 'Regimental Funds', 'Chief Engineers Trust Fund', 'commanders' Fund, 'Units Fund', 'GREF benevolment fund', 'Cinema Fund,' etc. are raised and being maintained in the Border Roads Organisation (GREF) and civilians of GREF are compelled to contribute to the same without any proper receipt and employees are contributing under the threat of Army Act ;

(b) if so, the details of such funds, Unit, Task Force, project-wise and total amount as on date ;

(c) under what authority such funds are raised and being maintained ;

(d) the reasons why proper receipts are not issued to the employees and why audit is not carried out by chartered Accountants ; and

(e) whether Government now propose to stop such unauthorised funds and save the poor employees working at remote corners and borders of the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.P.