

बैंक शाखाओं के विस्तार के मामले में बिहार कम शाखाओं वाले राज्यों में से एक है। अप्रैल, 1982 से मार्च, 1985 तक की अवधि के लिए शाखा विस्तार नीति के अनुसार, जिसमें कम शाखाओं वाले जिलों में बैंक रहित ग्रामीण/अर्ध शहरी केन्द्रों में शाखाएं खोलने की परिकल्पना की गई है ताकि ग्रामीण और अर्ध शहरी इलाकों की प्रत्येक 17000 की आबादी के पीछे एक शाखा हो, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने यह अनुमान लगाया है कि इस अवधि में बिहार राज्य में 1106 अतिरिक्त ग्रामीण अर्ध शहरी शाखाएं खोलनी होंगी। यह सुनिश्चित करने के लिए कि बैंकों का शाखा विस्तार कार्यक्रम राज्य सरकार के विकास कार्यक्रमों का सहायक हो, भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक इस मामले में राज्य सरकारों पर निर्भर करता है ताकि बैंकों और अन्य एजेंसियों के परामर्श से शाखाएं खोलने के वास्ते बैंक रहित ग्रामीण अर्ध शहरी केन्द्रों का पता लगाएं। बिहार सरकार से प्राप्त सिफारिशों तथा अलग अलग बैंकों से प्राप्त आवेदनों के आधार पर अब तक भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने 801 कार्यालय खोलने के लिये प्राधिकार पत्र जारी किये हैं। अप्रैल, 1982 से मार्च, 1985 तक की अवधि के शाखा विस्तार कार्यक्रम को पूरा करने के लिए राज्य सरकार को अतिरिक्त केन्द्रों का पता लगाने के वास्ते कहा गया है।

Withdrawal of Excise Duty Relief on Mini Cement Plants

3805. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL :
SHRI MOTIBHAI R. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have withdrawn excise duty relief from the mini cement plants in the small scale sector which they had been enjoying units now;

(b) whether he had received a memorandum asking for full exemption from excise duty from the mini cement plants; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government and decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA) : (a) A concessional rate of excise duty was leviable on cement manufactured in mini-cement plants from the 30th May, 1979 till the 31st March, 1984. A decision was taken in March, 1984 not to extend the excise duty concession beyond the 31st march, 1984.

(b) and (c) Certain representations requesting for continuance of the concessional rate of duty on cement manufactured by mini cement plants have been received. These representations have been considered, but it has not been found possible to accede to the request.

Internal Prices of Coffee and Tea

3806. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to lay a comparative statement of internal prices of coffee and tea for the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : Internal auction prices of coffee and tea in the last three years are as follows :—

Year	In Rs. per 50 kg.		
	Plant 'A'	Arabica Cherry 'AB'	Robusta Cherry 'AB'
1981	586.50	493.75	469.75

1982	597.50	497.25	473.00
1983	683.25	572.25	562.50
1984 (Jan.—May)	782.25	727.35	838.15

Tea Year	Unit Price (Rs./kg)
1981-82	18.15
1982-83	19.06
1983-84	28.33

Proposal to Levy cess on Cardamom at Growers' Level

3807. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to levy cess upto Rs. 25/-per kg. on cardamom at the growers' level;

(b) the reasons in shifting cess from export point to production point; and

(c) whether it will not reduce the returns to cardamom growers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The proposal to levy cess on cardamom production, besides that on exports, is under consideration. The idea is to adjust the two levies depending on domestic and export trade profits, in such a way that it may be in the interest of growers as well as exporters of cardamom at a particular point of time.

Increase in Index of Wholesale Prices During July, 1984

3808. SHRI B.V. DESAI :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER
JAIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the general index of wholesale prices during the third week of July, 1984 has increased;

(b) if so, whether the increase in general index in July this year has been a record one; and

(c) if so, the main causes thereof and the steps taken by Government to check them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the four weeks ended July 28, 1984 the general index of wholesale prices increased by 2.3 per cent (end-month basis). The increase in prices in the month of July is not unusual because of seasonal pressures as may be seen from the fact that the wholesale price Index increased in the corresponding period by 4.8 per cent in 1979-80 3.5 per cent in 1980-81, 2.4 per cent in 1981-82, 1.9 per cent in 1982-83 and 1.4 per cent in 1983-84.

From time to time, Government have taken steps, both on the demand and supply side, to contain inflation. These include, inter alia, incentives for higher production strengthening of the public distribution system, larger releases of foodgrains, sugar and edible oils, import of essential items as and when necessary, enforcement of fiscal discipline and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system.

India Outdated by China in Silk Fabrics Garments, Dress Materials and Handicrafts

3809. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's sale of a number of traditional items ranging from silk-fabrics garments, dress materials and handicrafts has been outdated by China's exports;