

(b) if so, the action taken on their complaints ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANT RAO CHAVAN) : (a) and (b). Despite the liberalise credit policy adopted by the nationalised banks in respect of small borrowers and the efforts to mobilise deposits, there have been some complaints that the credit requirements of the small borrowers are not receiving adequate attention. When specific complaints are brought to the notice of the Government, they are referred to the concerned banks for appropriate action. The need for undertaking adequate credit planning in each bank has been emphasized on the Custodians and in the recent meeting convened by the Finance Minister in April 1971, the Custodians were advised that the credit requirements of neglected sectors should receive priority in keeping with the basic objectives underlying nationalisation.

A much closer scrutiny is being exercised on the large-size accounts and detailed guidelines on the subject have been circulated by the Reserve Bank of India to all banks. Banks generally provide credit only for working capital and have been endeavouring in an increasing measure to restrict the credit facilities only to the genuine productive needs of the large borrowers. The growing change in the attitude of the banks towards the small borrowers is reflected in the increase in the number of borrowal accounts of farmers, small scale industry, road transport operators, retail trade and small business, self employed persons and education. The number of such accounts with the public sector banks has gone up from about 2.8 lakhs at the beginning of July 1969 to about 11.3 lakhs by the end of December, 1970.

**Damodaran Committee Report on Reorganisation of Technical Education**

1346. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Damodaran Committee on the Reorganisation of Technical Education has submitted its report to Government ;

(b) if so, the salient points thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI D. P. YADAVA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The report was submitted on 29th May, 1971.

(b) A summary of the main recommendations is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—322/71]

(c) Since the Committee was appointed by the All India Council for Technical Education, the report will be first considered by the All India Council and then by Government.

**Lower Rates of interest to Low Income-Group from the Deposits on the Nationalised Banks**

1347. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :  
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to grant the benefit of lower rates of interest to the low income group from the deposits of the nationalised banks ;

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal and when it is likely to take effect ; and

(c) to what extent it will help the low income group ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANT RAO CHAVAN) : (a) to (c). A committee headed by Dr. R. K. Hazari, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India has examined the question of charging lower interest rates to weak borrowers within certain sectors. The Report of the Committee has just been received and copies thereof will be furnished to the Parliament Library shortly. The recommendations of the Committee are under examination.

**Agreements for Assistance from foreign countries**

1348. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :  
SHRI P. GANGADEB :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had signed agreements