

(b) how many applications were made, District-wise, during June, 1972 to June, 1973;

(c) whether tribal and Scheduled Caste applicants are not given any loan by the branches of nationalised banks in West Bengal; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) to (d). The available information relating to the district wise outstanding advances of nationalised banks in the State of West Bengal as on the last Friday of December, 1972 is given below :

District	*Amount outstanding (Rs.lakhs)
1. Bankura	59
2. Birbhum	55
3. Burdwan	569
4. Calcutta	36,909
5. Cooh-Behar	25
6. Darjeeling	140
7. Hooghly	198
8. Howrah	676
9. Jalpaiguri	315
10. Malda	21
11. Midnapore	232
12. Murshidabad	66
13. Nadia	195
14. Purulia	41
15. 24-Parganas	739
16. West Dinajpur	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>40.279</b>

\* Figures are provisional.

The data maintained by the commercial banks do not provide for such classification as loans to tribal and scheduled castes etc. Nor does there currently exist any system of tabulating on overall basis information in regard to the number of applications received.

**Loan given by Nationalised Banks to Agriculturists of West Bengal having less than five bighas of land**

5797. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE :  
SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nationalised banks have given loans to agriculturists of West Bengal having less than five bighas of land during the last two years;

(b) whether loans have been given to the persons having more than five bighas of land; and

(c) the names of the banks which gave loans indicating the total amount of loan given by each of them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) :

(a) to (c). The Nationalised banks as well as the State Bank of India have in fact been giving loans to agriculturists in West Bengal having land holdings upto 2.5 acres and above. As per provisional figures received from the Reserve Bank of India, the total outstandings of direct advances given by Nationalised banks in West Bengal to agriculturists having land holdings upto 2.5 acres were Rs. 99.11 lakhs, the number of accounts being 18343.

The total outstandings of direct advances to agriculturists given by Nationalised banks in West Bengal as at the end of March 1972 and March 1973 were as follows:—

	Rs.
March, 1972.	7.89 crores
March, 1973.	13.50 crores (Provisional)

The figures are exclusive of advances given by the State Bank of India.

**Persons arrested on charges of smuggling in Calcutta**

5798. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE :  
SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of persons who were arrested on charges of smuggling in Calcutta during the last 3 years but not prosecuted and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): The number of persons arrested on charges of smuggling in Calcutta during the years 1970, 1971 and 1972 but not prosecuted was 27.

The reasons for these persons not being prosecuted were as follows:—

16 persons were not prosecuted as the evidence against these persons was not sufficient or the value of the goods seized from them was so small as not to warrant prosecution. 7 persons were discharged by the court as the investigations against them could not be completed within the time fixed by the court for filing the complaint. Investigations in the cases against 4 persons were still in progress.

**Grant of Financial Assistance by Reserve Bank to co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Sector in West Bengal**

5799. SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE :  
SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the financial assistance to be provided by the Reserve Bank in the current year to the Co-operative, Agricultural and Industrial sectors in the State of West Bengal separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): The Reserve Bank of India does not provide any direct financial assistance, but extends refinance facilities only. For 1973-74, the Reserve Bank sanctioned credit limits of Rs. 502 lakhs to the West Bengal State Co-operative Bank Limited in favour of 15 out of 17 Central Co-operative banks for financing seasonal agricultural operations. It is ascertained that no applications were received from the Apex Bank for financing weavers/industrial co-operative societies for the year 1973-74 in West Bengal.

2. The Industrial Development Bank of India (a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India), since its inception in July, 1964 upto to 30th June, 1973, sanctioned financial assistance aggregating Rs. 91.82 crores to various industrial units in West Bengal.

**Trade agreement with South Korea**

5800. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA :

SHRI M. SUDARSANAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Trade agreement has been signed with South Korea; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) No, Sir. But the text of an Agreement has been initialled.

(b) A copy of the Agreement will be placed in the Parliament Library, as soon as it is signed.

**Income tax exemption granted to Foreign Technicians**

5801. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently received representations from certain quarters for complete withdrawal of the exemption granted to foreign technicians from Income tax;

(b) if so, the Government's decision; and

(c) the justification for such decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) A suggestion was received some time ago for the withdrawal of exemption to foreign technicians under the Income-tax Act.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the need of foreign technology and personnel in the industrialisation of the country, it is not considered desirable at this stage to withdraw this exemption.

**Fall in value of Rupee and its effects on various deposits, security and pension drawn by Government Employees**

5802. SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take steps for revaluation of rupee as its value has fallen to 36 paise during