

(c) the estimated number of sick spinning mills in the country, State-wise and to what extent the scheme proposed would provide relief to these units?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) to (c). Of late cotton spinning mills have faced serious difficulties as a result of sluggish yarn market. This situation may not last long and it cannot be said that all the spinning mills facing difficulties are sick. Government is keeping watch and if the situation warrant remedial action, such action would be taken.

Bank Credit at Preferential Rate of Interest in Bihar

3594. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the total number of persons, profession-wise, who have received bank credit at the preferential rate of interest in each of the districts of Bihar and the total amount advanced profession-wise during the last three years; and

(b) the branch-wise total number of such persons in the districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga, Samastipur and Sitamarhi during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). It is presumed that the Hon'ble Member is referring to the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme, which was put in operation in June 1972. The present system of data collection does not provide for compilation of data profession-wise. However, available data on outstanding advances as on December 1973 and December 1974 under DRI scheme in the districts of Bihar are set out in the Statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-10813/76].

Payment of H.R.A. to the employees of autonomous bodies

3595. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether the House Rent Allowance in respect of employees of the various autonomous bodies under the administrative control of the Ministries concerned has recently been kept at par with the rate of House Rent Allowance allowed to the Central Government employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): No general orders have been issued to bring the rates of house rent allowance payable to the employees of the various autonomous bodies under the control of different Ministries, at par with the rates of house rent allowance payable to the Central Government employees.

Bank Loan Facilities to Weaker Sections

3596. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed their policy regarding bank loans to be made available to the weaker sections of society for the construction of houses at the resettlement sites;

(b) whether Government have given any special credit facilities to people in the villages for their resettlement at a normal rate of interest; and

(c) whether Government have issued instructions to banks to provide facilities to the weaker sections throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) Public sector banks' participation in the national housing programmes takes the form of subscription to the bonds and debentures of State Housing Boards, which undertake housing