

ing 1975-76. The Indian Council of Trade Fairs and Exhibitions arranged two fair participations in 1974-75 and three in 1975-76.

World Bank Aid for Power Projects

1400. **SHRI VASANT SATHE.** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been apprised of some power projects to be taken up during the 5th Plan with its financial/technical assistance; and

(b) if so, State-wise, particulars of such projects and financial assistance sought/indicated/promised by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). The Government of India has signed on 22-1-1976 an agreement with the International Development Association, an affiliate of the World Bank, for one hundred and fifty million dollars for the IVth Power Transmission Project which will be executed during the Fifth Plan. Out of \$ 150 million, \$ 120 million will be utilised for supply and construction of overhead transmission lines, underground cables and sub-station equipment for the State Electricity Boards of Bihar; Gujarat; Maharashtra and West Bengal and for the Western and Eastern Regional Electricity Boards. The remaining 30 million dollars is meant for supply and construction of transmission lines, sub-stations and communications equipment in the States of Assam; Kerala; Madhya Pradesh; Karnataka; Orissa; Tamil Nadu and the areas of operations of Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the Beas Construction Board; the Southern and Northern Regional Electricity Boards and the Tata Power Company.

In addition to the above, as few feasibility reports on both Super Thermal and Hydro Electric Projects were submitted to the World Bank for financial assistance. The Super Thermal Stations being considered are for locations at Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh;

Korba in Madhya Pradesh; Farakka in West Bengal and Neyveli (Tamil Nadu)/Godavari (Andhra Pradesh). Out of these, Singrauli Project was recently appraised by a World Bank Mission. The Team's report is still awaited.

The Hydro Electric Projects under consideration of the World Bank are for location at (1) Nathpa-Jhakri on the river Sutlej in Himachal Pradesh, (2) Koel-Karo on the river South Koel (a tributary of the Brahmani) and its tributary the North Karo in Bihar, (3) Tehri Dam Project on the river Bhagirathi in Uttar Pradesh, and (4) Bedti-Varahi Project on river Bedti in Karnataka.

Recommendations of Working Group on Regional Rural Banks

1401. **SHRI VASANT SATHE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the main recommendations of the working group on Regional Rural Banks;

(b) the action taken/proposed by Government thereon; and

(c) whether the Reserve Bank had modified its Bank's branch licensing policy and if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE & BANKING (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) The main recommendations of the Working Group on Rural Banks set up by the Government in July 1975 are contained in the Statement enclosed.

(b) The recommendations of the Working Group on Rural Banks were considered and with certain modifications accepted by the Government. In pursuance of this, action has been taken to establish Regional Rural Banks under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. So far 12 such Banks have been established in the country.