

Setting up of Zonal Advisory Committee of GIC

941. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Insurance Company (GIC) has decided to set up Zonal Advisory Committees for major centres;

(b) if so, the composition of the Advisory Committees and the aims and objects of these Committees; and

(c) the time by which these panels are likely to start working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been reported by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) that Zonal Advisory Committees (ZACS) are being set up at the four metropolitan cities to interact with customers and get feedback on the insurance services rendered by them. The ZAC shall consist of representatives from trade, commerce and industry; selected prominent policy holders, and eminent nominated representatives. The ZAC will be convened by the Chairman-cum-Managing Directors of the subsidiaries and will be chaired by the Chairman, GIC. The Regional Managers of the subsidiary companies at the metro centres shall be permanent invitees. The committee is expected to commence functioning from 31st March, 1999.

Production of Spices

942. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is considering for setting up of a Technology Mission with a view to increase the production of spices in the State of Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export Oriented Units

943. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Bihar to set up per cent export-oriented units in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Loans to Medical and Engineering Students

944. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nationalised banks have provided loans to medical and engineering students in Gujarat, particularly in backward and rural areas of the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise and year-wise;

(c) the details of nationalised banks which did not provide loans to these students alongwith reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all branches of nationalised banks provide loans to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCE AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Silk Worm

945. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government import silkworms for the department of sericulture;

(b) if so, the number of countries from which such import was made and the amount incurred thereon;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding irregularities in sericulture department of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.