

tions including imputed cost of family labour, agro-climatic factors, specific requirements of hi-tech and plantation crops, methods of operation, etc. are taken into account while fixing the crop-wise scales of finance. These scales of finance are being adopted by all banks in every district of the country to ensure uniformity as well as availability of adequate credit to the farmers. In so far as Gujarat State is concerned, the Technical Group meetings for fixing the scale of finance for different crops for the year 1999-2000 are being convened by various District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) and so far 9 such meetings have already been convened.

RBI/NABARD have taken several measures to refine the various components of the production oriented system of lending to ensure easy flow of loans to farmers. These include preparation of credit limit applications by cooperatives once in three years and updating annually, fixing adequate scales of finance for each crop grown in the district by the District Level Technical Committee, allowing banks freedom to disburse the loan in cash to enable the farmer to have access to appropriate inputs of his choice, liberal security norms whereunder no collateral is insisted for short term loans upto Rs. 25,000/- fixing realistic due date for recovery of loans coinciding with marketing season, etc. Further, a loan of Rs. 11.19 crore has been sanctioned by NABARD during 1997-98 towards share capital contribution of the Co-operative Credit Institutions in the State of Gujarat.

Ban on Import of Silk

1066. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is persistent demand from the silk weavers, reelers and mulberry growers of the country particularly from Karnataka to put a complete ban on import of Silk Yarn; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) To protect the domestic sericulture sector the import of mulberry raw silk is in the negative list. However, to provide quality silk to the exporters the facility of importing mulberry raw silk under the Duty Exemption Scheme (DES) is available. The exporters have been representing that indigenous availability of high grade raw silk is not adequate to cater to their demand. To meet this demand the Government had permitted import of raw silk through canalisation without an import licence vide public notice dated 8th October, 1998. On account of various representations received from different quarters against this policy decision for permitting canalisation since it was stated that such a step would adversely affect the domestic sector, the Government have rescinded the above Public Notice, and have permitted import of only Grade 2A and above mulberry raw silk under Special Import Licence (SIL) with the

condition that the CIF (Cost Insurance and Freight) value of the surrendered SIL shall be three times the CIF value of the imported goods.

Performance of UTI

1067. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

SHRI MADHUKAR SIRPOTDAR :

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several audit reports on the Unit Trust of India (UTI) had criticised the performance of the UTI and suggested overhaul of the UTI's working;

(b) if so, the details of the audit findings and suggestions;

(c) the reasons for the low performance of various schemes of UTI; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the condition of UTI ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) UTI has stated that in the Audit reports relating to the previous years, the Statutory Auditors have commented upon areas relating mainly to reconciliation of items regarding Unit Capital, Inter-office accounts, Investment holdings and Income distribution-bank accounts. However, these areas were specific to schemes and not related to UTI functioning as a whole.

(c) and (d) Under all Income Schemes that have matured, UTI has given more than or equal to the indicative return. Of the 21 equity schemes launched by the Trust, 18 schemes have outperformed the Sensex (i.e. 86%). Other major schemes of the Trust like Unit Scheme 1964 (US 64), Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP), Unit scheme for Charitable and Religious Trusts and registered Societies (CRTS 81) etc. have paid consistent dividends to the unitholders.

Incentives to NRIs

1068. SHRI N. DENNIS :

SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear tests in India have affected the investment of Non-Resident Indians in India;

(b) if so, the details of the measures taken to meet this situation; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to encourage N.R.I. investment in India?