

FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has been decided to extend the District Rural Industries Project (DRIP) to seven more districts with effect from 1st April 1999 for a period of five years.

(b) The selected districts are Akola (Maharashtra), Bijapur (Karnataka), Bargarh (Orissa), Kutch (Gujarat), Mirzapur (Uttar Pradesh), Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu) and Udaipur (Rajasthan).

(c) NABARD has reported that an estimated 1.63 lakh employment opportunities were created during the project period 1993-94 to 1997-98 in the five existing DRIP districts.

#### Change in the Design of Notes

689. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems being faced by the common man because of the almost identical looking Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- notes;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to change the colour or design of either of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 100/- notes; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been decided by the Government to make some changes in the colour scheme of new Rs. 500 note so as to make it more distinct from the new Rs. 100 note.

A revised colour scheme for the Rs. 500 notes is under preparation. Since note designing is an intricate job, it would take about a year for the Government to circulate Rs. 500 notes with a revised colour scheme.

[*Translation*]

#### Financial Assistance to Exporters

690. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Government to the exporters under the Duty Draw Back Scheme during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of the exporters, the products they exported and the countries to which this export was made;

(c) whether the Government have made any assessment as to which extent this scheme has helped in the promotion of export from the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) The amount provided by the Government to the exporters under the Duty Drawback Scheme during each of the last two years is as under:

1996-97	Rs. 2926.83 Crores
1997-98	Rs. 3660.95 Crores
1998-99 (upto Jan. 1999)	Rs. 3727.72 Crores

(b) The drawback rates are fixed on the basis of data provided by the respective Export Promotion Councils as well as individual exporters regarding duties of Customs and Central Excise suffered on the inputs/raw materials required to manufacture their export products. The drawback rates have been fixed for 753 categories of products. Out of these, the main sectors which are availing the duty drawback scheme are textiles, engineering, chemical, leather, plastics, electronics, metals and handicrafts. Duty Drawback is admissible for exports to any part of the world. However, our exports are primarily to the countries in North America, the European Union, West Asia and South-East Asia.

(c) and (d) The objective of draw-back scheme is to re-imburse to the exporters the duties of excise and customs which have been suffered on the inputs/raw materials used in the manufacture of the export products to enable exporters to be price competitive in export markets.

#### NALCO and BALCO

691. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the employment generated by National Aluminium Company and Bharat Aluminium Company during the Eighth Plan;