

(e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to unearth the Benami transaction in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Benami Transaction (Prohibition) Act, was passed in September, 1988.

(b) and (c) The rules for implementing the Act could not be framed in view of the difficulties expressed by the Ministry of Law, relating to complexities in the law, which make it unworkable in its present form particularly having regard to agricultural properties which constitute the State subject.

(d) In view of the above, does not arise.

(e) The matter regarding the issues arising due to difficulties in implementing the Act in its current form is under consideration of the Government.

Export of Animals

774. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the animals are being exported from the country;

(b) if so, the details of the countries to which the animals are being exported; and

(c) the manner in which these animals are used in those countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain animals are exported from the country. The major destinations for exports are Bangladesh, Nepal, Oman, S. Arabia, Sri Lanka and UAE.

(c) This information is not maintained by the Government.

Bank Branches

775. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAMRAJU:
SHRI JAYARAMA I.M. SHETTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks operating in the rural areas of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to strengthen the banking operations in rural areas of the country;

(c) if so, the number of new branches of banks are likely to be set up in rural parts of the country during the current financial year, State-wise; and

(d) the criteria of setting up of bank branches in rural parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) State-wise number of branches of nationalised banks operating in the rural areas, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given in attached statement.

Under the extent Branch Licensing Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), it is left to the judgement of the individual banks to assess the need for opening additional bank branches in rural areas including the underdeveloped hilly areas of the country and no State-wise/area-wise targets have been fixed. The proposals received from the banks for opening of additional rural branches at centres which fall in the service area of the applicant bank and which are recommended by the concerned State Government are considered by RBI on merits. The State-wise number of authorisations/licences issued to public sector banks for opening branches in rural areas is indicated in the statement enclosed.

Statement

State-Wise Number of Rural Branches of Nationalised Banks (As on 31st December 1998) and Number of authorisations/Licenses Issued for Opening Branches in Rural Centres

State Name	Total Number of Rural Branches of Nationalised Banks	No. of Authorisations Issued for Opening Branches in Rural Centres
1	2	3
Andaman & Nicobar	4	—
Andhra Pradesh	909	5
Arunachal Pradesh	7	—
Assam	385	—
Bihar	1370	—
Chandigarh	5	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	5	—
Daman & Diu	—	—
Delhi	28	1
Goa	123	—
Gujarat	904	1
Haryana	324	5

1	2	3
Himachal Pradesh	342	7
Jammu & Kashmir	40	—
Karnataka	856	3
Kerala	84	—
Lakshadweep	9	—
Madhya Pradesh	933	2
Maharashtra	1363	—
Manipur	19	—
Meghalaya	17	—
Mizoram	—	—
Nagaland	4	—
Orissa	537	1
Pondicherry	20	—
Punjab	687	3
Rajasthan	549	2

1	2	3
Sikkim	10	—
Tamil Nadu	1134	4
Tripura	32	—
Uttar Pradesh	2037	1
West Bengal	1179	—
All India Total	13916	35

Overdraft by States

776. SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) year-wise total amount of overdraft resorted to by each State and Union Territory during the last three years and the total amount pending for adjustment by the end of 1999-2000 with special reference to the State of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to recover the overdraft, if any, and to keep the States under financial discipline;

(c) whether the J&K State is passing through financial constrains to meet the plan & non-plan requirements in view of militancy related expenditure and other financial mismanagements; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to redress the financial problems of the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The position of cash balances and over-drawal if any of the State Governments may vary from day to day and State to State. Transfers between a State and the RBI is conducted as per an agreement between the two. Since it is a matter of relationship

between the banker and the client (between the RBI and the State Government), such information is not published by the Government of India. J&K Government, however, does not bank with RBI.

(c) and (d) Annual Plan for J&K for 1998-99 approved by the Planning Commission is Rs. 1900 crores which marks an increase of 22.43% over last year's level. The Plan is being fully funded. Government of India provides Central assistance for funding the State Plans in the form of 90% grant and 10% loan. It also funds the non-Plan gap, and supports Security related expenditure incurred by the State Government as per approved norms.

Disinvestment of Sick PSUs

777. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a number of decisions for saving the sick Public Sector Undertakings and restoring health of such PSUs by way of disinvestment, converting loans into shares and other means;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps since been taken in pursuance thereof; and