

in the Budget of 1999-2000 would marginally increase the import duty on certain finished steel items. This is expected to provide some relief from cheap imports of steel.

- Anti dumping duty on Hot Rolled coils imported from Ukraine and Russia has been notified.
- Government has announced floor prices on certain finished steel items including seconds and defectives with a view to restrict their imports at very low prices which was adversely affecting the domestic market.
- Rationalisation of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates for steel exports have been carried out to boost exports.
- A 'Steel Exporters Forum' has been set up to help steel exporters to overcome bottlenecks in exports.
- Main producers are orienting product mix to suit the market requirements and adjusting production in tune with change in the market demand.
- Producers are developing nourishing long term customers relationship by entering into MOUs/ supply arrangement with the customers.
- The steel producers have taken steps to reduce costs and improve techno-economic parameters.

[English]

Kisan Credit Cards

*363. SHRI H.G. RAMULU :

SHRI A. SIDDARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers to whom Kisan Credit Cards have been issued so far, State-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the target fixed in this regard for the year 1999-2000; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government for monitoring the proper implementation of the scheme and to make this scheme popular among the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), 6,26,553 Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) have been issued by public sector banks, Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks as on March 26, 1999 to farmers. The bank-wise and State-wise details are given in Statement-I and II.

(b) For the year 1999-2000, target has been fixed that banks should extend the coverage of KCC so that 20 lakh farmers can benefit from the scheme.

(c) Public Sector Banks and Indian Banks Association have been advised to give wide publicity through print and electronic media regarding the implementation of KCCs and its benefits in order to have better awareness among farmers. RBI has advised all scheduled commercial banks to submit the details of number of KCCs issued on a monthly basis. Government also monitors the implementation of the scheme on an on-going basis from time to time.

Statement - I

Statement indicating the Bank-wise position of issue of Kisan Credit Cards as on March 26, 1999

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	No. of Kisan Credit Cards
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	19510
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	*
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	649
4.	State Bank of Indore	250
5.	State Bank of Mysore	*
6.	State Bank of Patiala	*
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1125
8.	State Bank of Travancore	22
9.	Allahabad Bank	7794
10.	Andhra Bank	5032
11.	Bank of Baroda	1637
12.	Bank of India	5304
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	*
14.	Canara Bank	377725
15.	Central Bank of India	500
16.	Corporation Bank	20236
17.	Dena Bank	4076
18.	Indian Bank	6475
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	33
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	*
21.	Punjab National Bank	2637

1	2	3
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	296
23.	Syndicate Bank	164649
24.	Union Bank of India	*
25.	United Bank of India	329
26.	UCO Bank	418
27.	Vijaya Bank	*
28.	Regional Rural Banks	753
29.	Cooperative Banks	3409
Total		626553

* These banks have introduced the Scheme and are in the process of issuing cards.

Statement-II

Statement Indicating the State-wise position of Kisan Credit Cards issued by Banks

Sr. No.	Name of the State	No. of cards issued
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	54050
2.	Assam	71
3.	Bihar	6500
4.	Goa	103
5.	Gujarat	1881
6.	Haryana	9302
7.	Himachal Pradesh	614
8.	Karnataka	105031
9.	Kerala	51921
10.	Madhya Pradesh	2445
11.	Maharashtra	2067
12.	Orissa	6315
13.	Pondicherry	47
14.	Punjab	20836
15.	Rajasthan	693
16.	Tamil Nadu	120472

1	2	3
17.	Tripura	10
18.	Uttar Pradesh	48517
19.	West Bengal	4267

Note : Some banks have not furnished the State-wise position.

State Financial Corporations

*364. SHRI UPENDRA NATH NAYAK :

SHRI AMAN KUMAR NAGRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Narasimham Committee had recommended to adhere to the capital adequacy norms for strengthening the competitiveness of the State Financial Corporations (SFCs);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to implement the recommendations of the Committee, particularly in regard to recapitalisation and restructuring of weak SFCs;

(c) whether the Government propose to connect all the SFCs to electronic media country-wise for dissemination of information and exchange of ideas and also provide access to sourcing technology in the country and abroad through internet;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done;

(e) whether the Government have also received any request from All India State Financial Corporation Employees Federation in respect of emerging crisis in all the SFCs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Committee on Financial System in its report submitted in 1991 had inter alia recommended that State level institutions should maintain distance from State Government and an action plan to ensure that they function on business principles, prudential norms and stable management set up be implemented in three years.

(b) Prudential norms including Asset classification, income recognition and provisioning has been made applicable to SFCs with effect from April 1993.

(c) and (d) Technology upgradation by SFCs including use of information Technology for dissemination of information is a continuing process and each SFC would need to formulate an action plan for the purpose.

(e) and (f) The All India State Financial Corporation