

all commercial banks have been issued direction by RBI to earmark for housing sector lending 3% as against existing 1.5% of their incremental deposits as on the last reporting Friday of March, 1999 over the corresponding figure of the last reporting Friday of March 1998. Also the target for financing construction of dwelling units under Golden Jubilee Rural Housing Finance Scheme (GJRHFS) has been increased by 25% for 1999-2000 i.e., 1.25 lakh dwelling units.

#### Export of Marine And Agro-Based Products

3710. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development proposes to encourage export of agricultural and agro-based products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives given for export of these products?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it encourages refinancing of schemes leading to export of agricultural and agro-based products such as poultry, marine and fisheries products of shrimp farming, surmi production, etc. NABARD has further reported that so far 639 schemes for shrimp farming with financial outlay of Rs.756.32 crore, bank loan of Rs.323.88 crore and NABARD refinance assistance of Rs.262.28 crore have been sanctioned. As on February, 1999, the bank loan disbursed against the same is Rs.207.29 crore and refinance assistance is Rs. 169.15 crore. Besides shrimp farming two schemes for surmi production have been sanctioned in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra with financial assistance of Rs. 15 crore, bank loan of Rs. 4.30 crore and refinance assistance of Rs. 2.37 crore. NABARD gives priority for export oriented schemes while considering for refinance. As regards poultry products mostly schemes in the nature of production for specific pathogen free eggs, integrated broiler production-cum-processing are also to processing of poultry meat into value added products are considered for sanction by NABARD. However no special incentives are being given by NABARD.

#### Land for Tea Cultivation

3711. SHRIMATI RANEE NARAH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Assam Tea Association has requested the Union Government to provide more land to produce sufficient quantity of Tea to meet the requirement of the country; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

#### Export of Agricultural Products

3712. SHRI SADASHIVRAO D. MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names and quantity of agricultural products exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years ;

(b) the percentage of export of agricultural products against the total exports; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the export of agricultural products ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The country's total exports and agricultural exports (in terms of value Rs. in crore) and the percentage share of export of agricultural products to total exports during the last three years is as under :-

#### Export of Agricultural Products

Year	Country's total Exports (Rs. in Crores)	Agricultural Exports (Rs. in Crores)	% share of Agricultural Exports against Country's total Exports
1995-96	106353.35	17496.40	16.45
1996-97	118817.31	24362.57	20.50
1997-98	126285.76	23798.37	18.80

(Source DGCI & S, Calcutta)

Some of the agricultural products exported are rice (basmati and non-basmati), coffee, tea, cashewnuts, tobacco, deoiled cakes, fruits and vegetables, HPS groundnuts, sesame seeds, floricultural items meat and meat products.

The details of quality and value of each of the agricultural product exported and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years are available in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(c) Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken for enhancement of the exports of agricultural products include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers.

2. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment.
3. Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre-cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses).
4. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
5. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially the mangoes in overseas markets.
6. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and selected fresh fruits and vegetables and fruits.
7. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
8. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.
9. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
10. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

#### **Pay Scales of Auditor of C&AG of India**

3713. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JADAVBHAI JAVIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether grant of higher pay scale to Senior Auditors of Comptroller and Auditor General of India was agreed to in Principle by the Government in view of the decisions given by CAT benches located at Chandigarh and Guwahati;

(b) if so, the reasons for not implementing the decision by the Government till date; and

(c) the time by which the same is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) The CAT Benches at Chandigarh and Guwahati did not give any decisions granting a higher pay scale to Senior Auditors; they only recommended reconsideration of the issue by the Government.

Government decided to refer the issue to the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The Fifth Central Pay Commission did not recommend a higher pay scale to Senior Auditors at par with that of CSS Assistants. The pay scale recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission for Senior Auditors was lower than that of CSS Assistants.

The issue was thereafter referred to the Fast Track Committee constituted by the Government to consider various issues arising out of the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The Fast Track Committee recommended that there was no case for granting parity to Senior Auditors with CSS Assistants. The recommendation of the Fast Track Committee was accepted by the Government.

Accordingly, the revised pay scale recommended by the Fifth Central Pay Commission for Senior Auditors has finally been implemented.

[Translation]

#### **Food Processing Sector Under Priority Sector for Bank Lending**

3714. DR. SUSHIL INDORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any percentage has been fixed for disbursing loans to Food Processing Industries under priority sector lending scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the ratio fixed for disbursing loans to food processing sector, small scale industries and big industries ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) In terms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines, it is obligatory for public sector banks to lend 40 per cent of their Net Bank Credit (NBC) to priority sector. Within the priority sector, 18 per cent of NBC is required to be lent to agriculture, and 10 per cent of NBC to weaker sections. No separate target has been fixed for public sector banks for lending to food and agro-based processing industries, small scale industries and big industries. However, loans by banks to food and agro based processing sector are included under priority sector advances.

[English]

#### **National Housing Bank**

3715. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Union Government to sanction at least Rs. 100 crore to Kerala State Housing Board under Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?