

1995-96 and 9.5% in 1996-97 based on the actual expenditure for these two years and 10.3% in 1997-98 with reference to the Revised estimates for that year.

(e) and (f) There is no proposal to reduce the age of retirement of Central Government employees from 60 to 58 years.

(g) Increase in the age of retirement of Central Government employees does not have a one-to-one relationship with employment opportunities. Recruitment to the posts newly created in the Central Government or to posts which fall vacant has also not been discontinued as a consequence. It is also anticipated that employment opportunities will increase as a result of opening up of sectors such as Telecommunications, Power, etc.

[Translation]

**Implementation of Fifth Pay Commission
Report in Regional Rural Banks**

3183. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:
SHRI JAISINGRAO GAIKWAD PATIL:
SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have implemented Fourth and Fifth Bipartite Agreement's recommendations in rural banks like other nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for which Sixth bilateral agreement signed by banking industry on December 14, 1995 is not being implemented in regional rural banks; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) Consequent upon acceptance of National Industrial Tribunal (NIT) Award read with Equation Committee report, the Government of India extended the pay, allowances and other benefits as available in the IVth and Vth Bipartite Settlement in Nationalised Commercial Banks/ Sponsor Banks to the employees and officers of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with effect from 1.9.1987 and 1.11.1987 respectively vide Government of India's Letter No. F-11-3/90-RRB(1) dated 22.2.1991.

(c) The pay and allowances of the employees of RRBs are governed by Section 17(1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, wherein the Central Government is to determine the remunerations of officers and other employees appointed by RRBs.

(d) The matter is *sub-judice*.

[English]

Fraud in PNB

3184. SHRI S.S. OWAISI:
SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation in regard to 1.5 crore fraud in Punjab National Bank Branch, Mumbai, has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons involved in this fraud and the action taken by the Government to get the amount back;

(d) whether some private companies are also found involved in this fraud; and

(e) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Punjab National Bank has reported that as per their records, no fraud has been committed for Rs. 1.5 crore in any branch of the bank at Mumbai.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Sea Food Export

3185. SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh seafood exporters have started to explore markets other than traditional Japanese market;

(b) if so, whether seafood exporters have been able to find market in U.S. and Canada;

(c) whether India has also found China and Thailand; and