

Pending Road Accidents Claims

161. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number and amount of claims pending with National Insurance Co. Ltd. relating to road accident in Maharashtra for the last three years;

(b) the details of claims made and settled each year and their pending position;

(c) the amount of compensation paid against the claims settled during the said period, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for speedy settlement of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Excise Duty on Rosin

162. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have removed excise Duty on Rosin produced by units without use of power *vide* Notification No. 28/96 dated 11.9.96 and thus providing relief to hundreds of tiny cottage units;

(b) if so, whether these units would still, continue to be under excise Net as Turpentine oil received (12% to 13%) in the same process along with Rosin is not included in the Notification, perhaps inadvertently;

(c) whether this has been brought to the notice of the Government requesting for suitable amendment in the said notification to provide intended relief to the large number of cottage units producing Rosin without use of power; and

(d) the details of action taken in this regard to provide relief to the cottage industrial units operating without power ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government have received representations for exemption from excise duty on Turpentine oil, manufactured without the aid of power, and distilled out alongwith Rosin. The representations are being examined as part of the proposals for the Budget, 1997-98.

RBI's Guidelines for Opening of Branches

163. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA :
DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines about a year back to public sector banks for opening branches of their banks all over the country for every 12,000 people;

(b) if so, the number of bank branches opened in Assam by Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Corporation Bank since those guidelines were issued;

(c) whether the Bank Employees Committee of Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad is agitating over non-expansion of banking network in economically backward state like Assam, thereby defeating the very idea with which banks were nationalised in 1969; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The aim of Branch Licensing Policy, 1985-90 of Reserve Bank of India was to achieve a population coverage of 17,000 (1981 census) per bank office in rural/semi-urban areas as also to eliminate wide spatial gaps in the availability of banking facilities so that a rural branch was available within a distance of 10 kms. As on the last Friday of March 1996, the average population per bank office for the country is 14,500.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loan Provided to Orissa Under PMRY

164. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DASS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications sanctioned for providing loan under P.M.R.Y. during 1996-97 in Orissa particularly in Kalahandi District;

(b) the number of applicants out of them who have been provided loan under the scheme;

(c) whether some of the applicants whose applications were sanctioned have been denied loans;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which loan is likely to be provided to them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the loans sanctioned and disbursed under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1996-97 as at the end of December, 1996 in Orissa were as indicated below :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Period	Applications Sanctioned		Applications Disbursed	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
As at end of December, 1996	1771	1283.06	844	380.53

Reserve Bank of India has further reported that the date reporting system does not generate information district-wise. The RBI has further reported that no specific instances c