

cated Rs. 3317 lakh for 1996-97 in 13 States for agro-processing business.

Child Labour engaged in Tea Garden

6021. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge number of child labourers are engaged in the tea garden of Assam;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to ensure that the child labourers are not engaged in such gardens ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Tea Board, the estimated average daily number of child labourer employed in tea plantation industry of Assam during 1994 was around 18,000 constituting 3.18% of the total Labour employed in Assam tea plantation industry. The number of child labourers, however, have been coming down steeply in recent times and according to tea industry, there may be no significant employment of child labour in tea plantation industry from 1995 onwards. The Consultative Committee of Plantation Association have advised its constituent members not to employ any person below 14 years of age in plantation industry.

Draft facilities in RRBs

6022. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN:

DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Regional Rural Banks are allowed to introduce bank drafts;
- (b) if so, in which year this facility was introduced; and
- (c) which are the Regional Rural Banks assisted by sponsor banks to introduce such facilities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been allowed to issue bank drafts since the year 1980.

(c) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as per information available with them, there are 56 RRBs sponsored by 19 banks, who have so far introduced this facility. State-wise details of such RRBs alongwith names of sponsor banks is given in the attached Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) alongwith names of respective sponsor banks who are operating draft facility as on 31.3.1996.

Name of RRB	Sponsor Bank
1	2
ANDHRA PRADESH	
1. Rayalaseema Grameena Bank	Syndicate Bank
2. Sri Visakha Grameena Bank	State Bank of India
3. Sree Anantha Grameena Bank	Syndicate Bank
4. Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank	Indian Bank
5. Sri Saraswathi Grameena Bank	State Bank of Hyderabad
6. Golconda Grameena Bank	State Bank of Hyderabad
7. Kanakdurga Grameena Bank	Indian Bank
BIHAR	
8. Kosi Kshtriya Gramin Bank	Central Bank of India
9. Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	UCO Bank
10. Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	State Bank of India
GUJARAT	
11. Banaskantha-Mehsana Gramin Bank	Dena Bank
HARYANA	
12. Hissar-Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank	Punjab National Bank