

*[English]***Financial Irregularities in RRB**

5022. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints regarding financial scams and other irregularities in Regional Rural Banks under Gorakhpur district wherein request to conduct inquiry by CBI has been made;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the number of financial scam and other irregularities which has come to light as a result thereof; and

(d) the details of staff found guilty and the action taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter has already been referred to National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) for inquiry into the complaint in consultation with the sponsor bank.

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

*[Translation]***Branches of Banks in Rural Areas**

5023. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of branches of banks have decreased in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reason for the said decrease and its percentage during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***LPG Connections**

5024. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to release more number of new LPG connections during the current calendar year;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the criteria adopted for giving new connections in a given area; and

(d) the gas produced in the Mangalore Refinery during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) Government has approved release of 10 lakh new LPG connections and 10 lakh DBCs during the first quarter of 1997-98 (April-June, 1997).

(c) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country depending upon the LPG availability, waiting list, slack available with the distributors and their viability.

Further, the Government is according priority for release of LPG connections in Hilly areas, Taj Trapezium area, releases under TATKAL Scheme, new distributorship commissioning, priorities of PSUs/MOP&NG/MPs and unviable distributors.

In addition, Government has instructed the Public Sector Oil companies to release LPG connections to all the persons who had booked their connections before 1.1.91 on production of registration slip.

(d) The Mangalore Refinery with an installed capacity of 3.0 MMTPA was commissioned on 25.3.96. During the year 1995-96, the production was nil, but LPG production in 1996-97 was 50.9 TMT against the estimates of 59.3 TMT.

HUDCO

5025. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation has launched any scheme to promote the housing related activities in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allotted in this regard, State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) HUDCO provides financial assistance to various agencies for housing and Urban Development related schemes as indicated below :-

- Housing schemes for various income categories both in Urban and Rural areas.
- Staff housing
- Commercial Schemes
- Social infrastructure
- Land acquisition
- Private builders schemes
- Urban infrastructure schemes related to housing e.g. water supply, sewerage, drainage.

(b) and (c) As on 31.3.97 HUDCO has sanctioned