

*[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

10,885 housing projects, involving loan amount of Rs. 8895 crores to various State Housing Agencies, Development Authorities, Cooperative Societies and NGOs/Builders. State-wise details of loans and dwellings sanctioned are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Housing Projects as on 31.3.1997.

Sl. No.	States/UT's Names	Loan Amount (Rs. crore)	Total No. of dwellings	Total No. of Plots
1.	A. & N. Islands	4.18	784	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	931.21	1158069	4866
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.96	317	0
4.	Assam	139.42	57057	735
5.	Bihar	223.22	156149	9259
6.	Chandigarh	78.18	26511	8205
7.	Delhi	37.60	16292	0
8.	Goa	13.25	2786	1526
9.	Gujarat	581.53	503398	7742
10.	Himachal Pradesh	88.12	28839	1232
11.	Haryana	219.00	106422	95
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	51.08	15137	12084
13.	Kerala	894.23	758388	486
14.	Karnataka	627.86	720877	4536
15.	Meghalaya	42.28	13267	0
16.	Maharashtra	618.98	373732	18263
17.	Manipur	79.61	11034	0
18.	Madhya Pradesh	479.51	135475	88546
19.	Mizoram	25.47	7533	0
20.	Nagaland	39.40	13188	0
21.	Orissa	300.33	154833	6219
22.	Punjab	221.96	122582	4679
23.	Rajasthan	606.14	252882	16997
24.	Sikkim	47.18	12914	0
25.	Tamil nadu	1303.43	828087	128189
26.	Tripura	8.25	5011	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	925.92	654767	54570
28.	West Bengal	293.19	146540	974
29.	D. & N. Haveli	0.25	87	0
30.	Pondichery	12.58	5525	0
Total		8895.30	6288533	369203

Pakistan's Interference in Kashmir

5026. KUNWAR SARVRAJ SINGH:
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL :
SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement of the President of Pakistan wherein he has declared to continue the support for terrorists in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and whether the Government still hopes for better relations with Pakistan and if so, the basis thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Government have noted the statement of the Pakistani President, made while addressing the Pakistan National Day parade on 23 March, 1997.

(b) Pakistan's support to terrorism directed against India is well known.

Government hope that the recently resumed bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan will be sustained so that the two countries can work to establish a relationship of trust, friendship and cooperation.

[Translation]

Value of Rupee

5027. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRIMATI PURNIMA VERMA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether devaluation of Indian currency continuously going on in comparison to pound, dollar, German mark and Japan's yen;

(b) the present value of Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* the value in 1960;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the rate of interest to curb the devaluation of Indian rupee; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The rupee remained reasonably stable during May 1996 to March 1997 *vis-a-vis* the US dollar. Reflecting the movement of other international currencies *vis-a-vis* the US dollar, the Indian rupee appreciated against the DM and the yen but depreciated against the Pound Sterling during the same period.

(b) The exchange rate of the Indian rupee *vis-a-vis* the US dollar on 2nd May, 1997 was Rs. 35.7550 as compared to Rs. 4.7691 in 1960.

(c) and (d) The exchange rate of the rupee is market determined. The foreign exchange market is monitored