

countries also.

Private Banks in Rural Areas

3538. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI MANIK RAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank Trade Unions all over the country have opposed the establishment of private banks in the country particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government to the protest?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the All-India Regional Rural Banks Employees Association (AIRRBEA) has represented against the decision to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector.

(b) With a view to providing institutional mechanisms for promoting rural savings as well as for the provision of credit for viable economic activities in the local areas, it has been decided to allow the establishment of new local banks in the private sector. This is expected to bridge the gaps in credit availability and enhance the institutional credit frame-work in rural and semi-urban areas. RBI's view is that the demand for credit in rural areas and potential for mobilising savings from rural areas is large enough to allow for the viable operations of these new banks.

New NTC Units

3539. SHRI DARBARA SINGH :
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government propose to set up more Units of National Textile Corporation in the country particularly in Punjab and hilly areas of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Offload Percentage of Shares

3540. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the

Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to offload 74 percent state and retain a share of 26 percent in Public Sector Undertakings in non-core and non-strategic areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of Public Sector Undertakings which fall into these areas;

(c) the reaction of trade unions in this regard; and

(d) the reasons for the change in policy of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A Disinvestment Commission has been constituted by the Government which shall inter alia draw a comprehensive overall long term disinvestment programme within 5 to 10 years for the PSUs referred to it and shall determine the extent of disinvestment in each of the PSU. The Govt. shall consider the recommendation of the Commission about the extent of disinvestment to be carried out in each PSU.

[Translation]

Suggestions of Vora Committee for P.S.E.

3541. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ :
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B.C. Vora was constituted to review the functioning of public sector enterprises and make suggestions for their reform;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Union Government;

(d) if so, details of the main recommendations made by it; and

(e) the action taken for implementing the recommendations made in this regard so far.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) No, Sir. However, a Working Group set up by the Planning Commission on Management of public enterprises' had constituted a sub-group under the Chairmanship of Shri B.C. Bora, Chairman, ONGC, on the "role of public sector enterprises". Besides Shri Bora, the sub-group consists of Dr. K.G. Ramanathan,

Chairman, IPCL, S/Shri M. Gopalakrishna, Chairman, SCOPE, V.S. Jain, Director (Finance) SAIL, S. Talwar, Joint Secretary, DPE, K.G. Ramachandran, Director (Finance) BHEL, Mrs. Rama Murali, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, and Shri R. Bandopadhyaya, Secretary, Department of Industrial Reconstruction and Public Undertaking, Govt. of West Bengal, Calcutta. The Working Group has not yet submitted its final report to the Planning Commission.

[English]

Functioning of Coffee Board

3542. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coffee Board has recommended to grant cent percent free sale quota for all the growers for the coffee season 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard and the role, functions and the arrangement for providing necessary funds for the functioning of the Coffee Board in the changed circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has not yet taken any decision in this regard.

Bench of Karnataka High Court

3543. SHRI P. KODANDA RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have agreed to set up a bench of the Karnataka High Court in Dharwar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court, for establishment of a bench of the High Court at Dharwar. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

Foreign Exchange Dealers

3544. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign exchange dealers func-

tioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether all such dealers have obtained necessary licences from the Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) There are 96 banks and other institutions holding full-fledged licences and 7 holding restricted licences. State-wise details are furnished in attached statement.

(b) The banks/certain financial institutions are issued licences to deal in foreign exchange business by Reserve Bank of India.

(c) Question does not arise.

STATEMENT

State-wise details of the Foreign Exchange Dealers

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of Dealers
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Delhi	6
3.	Gujarat	2
4.	Haryana	1
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
6.	Karnataka	6
7.	Kerala	6
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2
9.	Maharashtra	61
10.	Rajasthan	1
11.	Tamil Nadu	10
12.	Uttar Pradesh	1
13.	West Bengal	5

Outstanding Income Tax dues in Jammu and Kashmir

3545. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of Income Tax dues outstanding in Jammu region and also in Kashmir Valley;

(b) whether certain officers and private firms have declined to submit their returns especially after the eruption of insurgency in Kashmir Valley;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The amount of Income-tax demand outstanding in Jammu region and Kashmir Valley