

Trade Deficit2371. SHRI C. P. MUDA-  
BAGIRYAPPASHRI RAJENDRA  
KUMAR SHARMA

} Will

the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the trade deficit during the period from April 1990 to November, 1990;
- (b) whether this is the highest trade deficit ever recorded for eight months;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the corrective measures the Government propose to take to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per provisional figures available from the DGCI & S, Calcutta, the trade deficit amounted to Rs. 7181 crores during April, 1990 to November, 1990.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The main reasons for the high trade deficit during April-Nov., 1990 were decline in exports of Gems & Jewellery on account of recession in the world market for small diamonds, coffee, rice, etc., and increase in import of petroleum and petroleum products, Edible oil, pulses etc.

(d) The Government have recently introduced far-reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing controls through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings. These are designed to improve the export environment which will lead to increase in production and improvement in the quality of export goods. Besides, the downward adjustment in the value of Rupee effected by RBI on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 is also expected to improve India's export earnings and this will consequently reduce the trade deficit.

Reservation for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Nationalised Banks2372. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the Supreme Court has ordered the Syndicate Bank to provide reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Services upto Top Executive Grade-Scale VII;
- (b) if so, whether the bank has implemented the orders;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay;
- (d) whether the Government have issued a similar directives to other nationalised banks also; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Syndicate Bank has reported that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has granted extension of time upto 15-10-1991 for implementation of the judgement. It has further, reported that the judgement would be implemented by it within the time granted.

(d) and (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 1-4-91 has ordered that its judgement dated 10-8-90 is applicable only in respect of the SC/ST employees in Syndicate Bank. As such, no directives to other nationalised banks have been issued.

[Translation] 76

Financial Assistance by IDBI to Mini Cement Plants in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh2373. DR. MAHAVIRSINH HARI-SINHJI GOHIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has stopped financing mini cement plant in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there are any restriction<sup>s</sup> on the transportation of cement from one State to another State; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the States of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh lie in the cement surplus region and even the existing units are facing marketing problems resulting in a number of such units becoming sick and committing defaults to the financial institutions. In view of this, financial institutions are not considering financing any grass-root cement projects, including mini-cement units, in these States for the present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

77 [English]

Delhi

Bank Robbery in Okhla Branch of State Bank of Patiala

2374. SHRI TARA CHAND KHANDLWAL } : Will  
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI }

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether robbers killed five bank employees and decamped with rupees two lakh from the Okhla branch of the State Bank of Patiala on July 15, 1991;

(b) whether the security provided by the bank was inadequate;

(c) if so, the steps taken to further tighten the security arrangements in the bank;

(d) whether any compensation has been announced by the Government to the next of kin of the deceased; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Three

bank employees and two members of the public were killed by the robbers in Okhla branch of State Bank of Patiala on 15th July, 1991. Robbers also took away an amount of Rs. 2,04,040.

(b) The branch had one armed guard and also a security alarm system. The alarm system was in working order but could not be activated earlier as the employees were under a state of shock due to fear and dacoits were dictating terms at gunpoint.

(c) Police authorities have been requested to take all preventive measures in so far as bank branches in the Union Territory of Delhi are concerned. Security measures needed by public sector banks are constantly reviewed and depending on the risk factor involved, armed guards are posted and anti-burglary/robbery devices etc. are installed wherever necessary.

(d) and (e) The bank has sanctioned Rs. 1.00 lakh each to the next of kin of all the 5 persons killed.

[Translation]

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Recruitment Offices for Defence Forces

2375. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the State-wise number of recruitment offices in the country for the various wings of the defence forces; and

(b) the norms prescribed for the physical standards and educational qualifications for recruitment ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Statement I is enclosed.

(b) Statements II, III and IV in respect of Army, Navy and Air Force, respectively, are enclosed.