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Reservation for SCs/STs and other Backward Classes in Public Issues**Expansion of Tea Industry in Sikkim**2511. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand tea industry in Sikkim where very good quality of tea is produced;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have sanctioned any funds for this purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Sikkim is declared as non-traditional area for the purpose of financial assistance under Tea Board's New Tea Unit Financing Scheme. However there are no proposals to expand tea industry in Sikkim at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Widening of National Highway No. 31-A in Sikkim2512. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to widen the National Highway No. 31-A in Sikkim to provide double lane facility and to ensure free and smooth movement of vehicle of all types ;

(b) if so, the time by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Current traffic does not justify widening of the National Highway to two-lane standards, and moreover the road passes through geologically unstable areas. Subject to requirements, further improvements on this National Highway will be taken up in the VIII Plan after it is finalised.

2513. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government propose to provide certain reservation in public issues for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes out of the public issue of capital is not considered feasible or desirable.

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Litigation Branch of D.G.S.&D.2514. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of cases assigned to the Litigation Branch of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals to handle arbitration proceedings;

(b) the number of cases where this branch has failed to file any affidavit-in-opposition within the time prescribed by the arbitrators;

(c) the number of cases awaiting award pending over four months, one year, two years, three years and more than three years; and

(d) the steps the Government propose to take to tone up this branch?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) From 1986 onwards, 1010 cases have been referred to arbitration.

(b) No affidavits-in-opposition are filed, but only counter claim statements are filed in arbitration cases. In 6 cases counter claim statements could not be filed in time.

(c) Total pending cases are 34 out of which :

Over 4 months	309
Over 1 year	20
Over 2 years	98
Over 3 years	77

(d) The working of the Litigation Branch is legal in nature and has to comply with legal procedures and requirements. Also the working of this branch is monitored as in the case of other branches of DGS&D and suitable action is taken as considered necessary from time to time.

[*Translation*]

Credit-Deposit Ratio of Bihar

2515. SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN
SHRI MOHAM-MAD ALL-A
ASHRAF FATMI } : Will
SHRI RAM LA-KHAN SINGH
YADAV }

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the credit-deposit ratio of the various States and Union Territories;

(b) whether the credit-deposit ratio of Bihar is low as compared to some other states; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to increase the credit-deposit ratio of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) State-wise/Union Territory-wise Credit-Deposit (C:D) ratio of commercial banks at the end of December, 1990 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The C:D Ratio is not the sole indicator of Economic Development of a particular State/Region. The actual level of credit in relation to locally mobilised deposits depend

upon the Credit absorption capacity of the State Region. The banks have been advised to ensure that wide regional disparities among various states in credit deployment are reduced and steps are taken to increase flow of credit to all productive and identified proposals in deficient areas. The progress in this direction is monitored by State Level Banker's Committee, State Governments and Reserve Bank of India on a regular basis

Statement

Name of the State/ Union Territory	C:D Ratio
I. NORTHERN REGION	
Haryana	58.61
Himachal Pradesh	36.18
Jammu & Kashmir	43.21
Punjab	43.69
Rajasthan	56.71
Chandigarh	128.91
Delhi	78.89
II. NORTH-EASTERN REGION	
Assam	53.09
Manipur	74.93
Meghalaya	23.48
Nagaland	45.11
Tripura	62.58
Arunachal Pradesh	20.51
Mizoram	33.90
Sikkim	22.68
III. EASTERN REGION	
Bihar	38.76
Orissa	81.38
West Bengal	53.60
Andman & Nicobar	33.22
IV. CENTRAL REGION	
Madhya Pradesh	66.19
Uttar Pradesh	44.70
V. WESTERN REGION	
Gujarat	56.55
Maharashtra	75.86
Goa	32.68
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50.53
Daman & Diu	21.99