

Opening of Evening Branches of Nationalised Banks

1536. SHRI RAM NARAIN BERWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of evening branches of nationalised banks in various States, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to open atleast one evening branch of nationalised banks in every district;

(c) if so, by what time;

(d) whether the Government also propose to open one branch of each nationalised bank working round the clock in the State capitals and Metropolitan cities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the time by which these are likely to be opened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWARTHAKUR): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had advised the commercial banks as far back as in 1983 that they would have no objection to banks having elongated business hours with a view to improving customer service. However, it is necessary for the banks that the transactions conducted during such extended hours of business are merged with the main accounts of the branch where it is decided to provide the facilities. The banks are also to ensure that local laws are complied with and the concerned clearing houses are informed as and when the hours of business of any of the branches are extended. The information system of RBI does not generate data on the number of evening branches of the banks

functioning in various States. There is no proposal with RBI to open atleast one evening branch of banks in every district or working round the clock in the State capitals and metropolitan cities.

[English]

Price of Raw Material for Handloom Industry

1537. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative prices of cotton, cotton yarn and chemical dyes and colours as on June 1, 1991 and September 1, 1991;

(b) the reasons for the steep increase in the prices of the above items; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the prices of these items to help the handloom weavers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) The prices of raw cotton and cotton yarn increased as a result of unexpected decline in cotton production, cost of fuel, rise in band rate etc.

(c) Government have taken several measures including making the spinning industry to agree to supply hand yarn at pre-budget prices to NHDC/State Handloom Agencies for onward supply to weavers. Constant monitoring of prices at Central and State Government level, directions to National Textile Corporation to augment production of yarn of counts of 40s and below to help the handloom weavers.