

of wheat was imported from USA. During 89-90 and 90-91 no wheat was imported. So far during 91-92 no wheat has been imported. The Government have, however, as informed by Ministry of Food, recently decided to import one million tonnes of wheat with a view to increase its availability and to contain the prices in the open market.

### Construction of Docks for Repair of Ships

1762. SHRIMATIGIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present arrangements of repairing the ships are not adequate; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to build docks for the repairs of ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While due to budgetary constraints, it may not be possible for the Government to invest in the creation of new shiprepair facilities, Government would encourage the setting up of such facilities in the private sector or joint sector with the participation of State Governments.

The Port Trusts have been advised to provide necessary land and water-front areas to the prospective entrepreneurs to set up ship repairing facilities in their respective Ports.

[English]

### Production of Defence Equipment

1763. SHRICHANDRAJEETYADAV-SHRI SIMON MARANDI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time schedule has been framed by the Government for increasing the Defense production;

(b) whether any foreign country has been approached for joint collaboration for defence production;

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the cost of production of defense items?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Consistent with the annual allocation funds and the prioritised requirements of the Services, itemwise annual targets are set. Achievement of such targets is monitored periodically.

(b) and (c). Some of the items under current production are being manufactured in technical collaboration with foreign countries, it is not in the public interest to disclose the details in this regard.

(d) Steps in this behalf include inventory control, optimisation of capacity utilisation, economy measured like energy conservation, value engineering etc.

[Translation]

### Expansion of RRBs Activities in New Areas

1764. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to expand the activities of Regional Banks in the new areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that as laid down in the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, RRBs finance target groups in rural areas. Keeping in view the role of RRBs in purveying credit to the weaker sections, Government has decided to retain the identity and character of RRBs. However, to sustain the positive role played by the banks, the Government, NABARD and the sponsor banks are continually monitoring the performance of RRBs and remedial measures are taken to improve their performance and eliminate their financial weaknesses. Certain specific measures to improve the earning capacity of RRBs, such as expansion in the scope of tractor financing, removal of ceiling of Rs. 1 lakh on individual loan limit for financing transport vehicles, increase in the individual loan eligibility under the composite loan scheme for non-farm activities from Rs. 30,000 to 50,000 etc. have been taken.

[English]

#### Reopening of Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi

1765. SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to reopen the Ajudhia Textile Mill's Delhi under National Textile Corporation

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken by the Government to protect the workers from unemployment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLLOT): (a) Ajudhia Textile Mills of Na-

tional Textile Corporation Limited is not closed.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

#### Role of Private Financial Companies

1766. SHRI RUP CHANDPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been made by the Government on the role played by the private financial companies in our economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some officials of public sector financial institutions and banks have been found directly or indirectly involved in many of these financial companies;

(d) if so, the details there of and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). No specific study has been made by the Government on the role played by private financial companies in the economy. The Narasimham Committee on the Financial System has, however, made certain recommendations for laying down prudential norms and guidelines for non-banking financial intermediaries.

(c) to (e). Reserve Bank of India have no specific information in this regard.

#### Prices of Coffee Seeds and Powder

1767. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has substantially increased the prices of Coffee