

been made available to the banks; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). In pursuance of the recommendations of the Working Group on Regional Rural Bank: (RRBs) the share capital of all the RRBs is being raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore in a phased manner. The share capital of all the RRBs has already been raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 lakhs in the first phase. Under the ongoing second phase this is being raised to Rs. 75 lakhs. So far 140 RRBs have been identified for the purpose out of which 128 will be covered by the end of March, 1992. However, as the Central Govt., the State Government and the sponsor banks are to subscribe 50%: 15%: 35%: of the share capital, there is a time lag between the sanction of the amount of share capital and its actual release. However, the total sanctioned amount is by the large released before the end of the financial year by all concerned.

Funds for Repair of Roads in Assam

1753. SHRI DWARKANATH DAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Kharimganj-Rangpur, Karimganj-Rangmati in Kharimganj District and Panchgram-Ramnathpur roads in Hailakandi District, Assam need repair and maintenance;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to allocate funds from Central Road Fund for repair and up-keep of these roads; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). Constitutionally, the Government of India are responsible primarily for roads declared as National Highways. Roads other than National Highways are essentially the responsibility of the State Government concerned. The roads in questions are State Roads and as such the Government of Assam are responsible for their repair and maintenance. No proposal relating to improvement of the said roads has been forwarded by the State Government for approval under the Central Road Fund programme. Questions of allocation of funds under Central Road Fund for these roads, therefore, does not arise.

Development of Sericulture in Orissa

1754. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Orissa poised for silk revolution' appearing in the 'Pioneer' dated January 25, 1992;

(b) if so, whether there is a great scope for the development of sericulture and silk industry in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Yes, sir.

(c) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Government of Orissa for development of sericulture, the Central silk Board is implementing the following sericultural development projects in the State:-

(1) World Bank/Swiss assisted National Sericulture Project in Koraput district.

(2) Intensive Sericulture Development Project in Ganjam district.

(3) Swiss assisted follow-up phase of Inter State Tasar Project.

Besides the Central Silk Board has created the following sericulture infrastructure for providing support in the fields of Research, Extension, Seed, Marketing & Training etc:-

- (i) 1 Regional Sericulture Research Station.
- (ii) 1 Regional Tasar Research Station.
- (iii) 5 Basic Seed Multiplication & Training Centres.
- (iv) 1 Raw Material bank-sub-Depot.
- (v) 1 Regional Development Office.
- (vi) 2 Research Extension Centres.
- (vii) 1 P2 Farm.
- (viii) 1 cocoon market.
- (ix) 8 Technical Service Centres.
- (x) 2 Silkworm Seed Production Centres.
- (xi) 1 Farmers Training School.

The Central Silk Board is also implementing a number of schemes for development of sericultural in various States including Orissa like supply of rearing kit to small and marginal farmers, assistance to reelers etc.

Investigation into Bofors Case

1755. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:
SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI SHIV SHARAN VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position in regard to the investigation into Bofors case both in India and abroad;

(b) the steps being taken by the Indian and Swedish Governments to remove legal and administrative hindrances and to expedite the investigation; and

(c) the time by which the inquiry is likely to be concluded?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c). Investigations are being pursued actively by the C.B.I. All necessary steps are being taken to expedite these investigations. As the case is sub-judice in India and certain countries abroad and many complicated legal processes are involved, it is not possible to indicate the time by which the on-going investigations can be concluded.

Trade Deficit

1756. DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign trade deficit and the overall balance of payment deficit expected during the current year;

(b) whether the new Import and Export Policy has shown any impact on the balance of payment position;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to cover the deficit?