

Agitation by Employees of Jute Corporation of India

2940. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of Jute Corporation of India have called for a nation-wide agitation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*English*]

Token Strike in Banks

2941. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of the nationalised banks went on one day token strike recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have instructed the concerned banks to deduct a day's salary; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). 20 nationalised banks have reported that their employees affiliated to certain specific unions/associations went on one day token strike on 29.11.1991 in

response to strike call given by these All India Organisations of Bank Employees against privatisation of banks; ban on recruitment, etc.

(c) and (d). Government have, inter alia, issued standing instructions to public sector banks to deduct wages on the principle of 'No work no pay' if an employee participates in strike.

Aid Disbursement by NHB

2942. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank has fixed a target of Rs. 1000 crores for disbursement during the current year beginning from July, 1991;

(b) if so, the States to which this aid has been provided;

(c) whether the State Housing Boards have been asked to submit their plans for providing aid under the scheme;

(d) if so, the amount of this aid that is proposed to be earmarked to the States for providing houses to the low income/weaker sections of the society; and

(e) the amount of loans so far provided by the National Housing Bank under the proposed scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (e). No such targets have been fixed by National Housing Bank (NHB). The capacity of NHB to provide financial assistance to eligible primary lending institutions depends on the resources it is able to raise. The cumulative refinance assistance from NHB to all eligible institutions upto February, 1992 amounted to Rs. 907 crores.

NHB has, also, formulated guideline for providing financial assistance for land development and shelter projects undertaken by public agencies such as Housing Boards and Development authorities.

Expenses on Foreign Business Guests

2943. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision that the expenses on foreign business guests of multi-national companies will be met in Indian rupees;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the visiting guests of companies have to get a certificate from the concerned companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank have issued a notification on 13th September 1991 granting general permission to persons resident in India, including Indian firms/companies and other organisations, to meet expenses in Indian Rupees on account of lodging, board and related services and for travel within India, of their non-resident guests visiting India in connection with business activity or any other work of the host without obtaining specific prior permission of the Reserve Bank. This decision was taken in pursuance of the liberalised Industrial Policy of the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Talks on American Intellectual Property Rights

2944. SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether US and India have decided to have a bilateral talks in Geneva regarding lack of protection to the American intellectual property rights in India;

(b) whether the talks have since been held;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and to what extent these have been fruitful; and

(d) the time by which the agreement reached in this regard is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). As part of the ongoing multilateral negotiations in the Uruguay Round at Geneva, there have been consultations between participants from time to time at bilateral and plurilateral levels. Such bilateral consultations have also been held with the United States on various issues under negotiation including on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

Though these consultations have helped to clarify the respective stands of India and the United States to each other, no agreement has been reached bilaterally in these consultations on the issue of TRIPs.

[*Translation*]

Trade Relations with Portugal

2945. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA:
SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: