

Committee in the Ministry held after its reconstitution during the last two years;

(b) whether the Rajbhasha is being neglected intentionally;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of Magazines/Pamphlets published in Hindi by departments and undertakings under the Ministry;

(e) whether their special issue would be published in the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No meeting of the Hindi Consultative Committee could be held during the last two years, as the Committee has been recently constituted on 18.6.1997 and its first meeting is scheduled to be held on 9.9.1997.

(b) and (c) No Sir, the meetings of Official Language Implementation Committee are held regularly to review the use of Rajbhasha in the Official work.

(d) Five

(e) and (f) Efforts will be made to publish a special issue of Hindi Patrika namely "Vidhaye Patrika" in the Golden Jubilee Year.

[English]

Request to World Bank to Double its Loan

2790. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY: Will the Minister for the State in the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI Governor has urged the World Bank to double its loan to India and the World Bank has responded in positive;

(b) if so, the appropriate modality to finalise such an issue;

(c) whether the Government are considering to set up a Commission to assess the impact of World Bank's loans taken by India till now;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No Sir. The Reserve Bank Governor has not urged the World Bank to double its loan to India.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Does not arise.

(e) The loans and credits from World Bank are of

a concessional nature with long maturity period enabling the Government to undertake developmental projects in social and infrastructure sectors which will yield long-term benefits to the country.

Trade Agreement With Romania

2791. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBAHU CHAUDHARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and Romania for increasing trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India and the Government of Romania has signed a bilateral framework agreement to augment the bilateral trade and economic relations.

(b) the salient features of this agreement are inter-alia, as follows:

(i) All trade in hard currency on internationally competitive pricing and norms;

(ii) extension of Mutual-Most-Favoured-Nation-Treatment;

(iii) encouragement to direct business level contacts, for example, through trade fairs exchange of visits of delegations etc.;

(iv) promotion of joint ventures and other forms of economic cooperation;

(v) encouragement of counter-trade and its variants;

(vi) setting up of joint commissions and holding of these meetings periodically to review the implementation of this agreement;

(vii) encouraging setting up of infrastructural facilities like joint ventures banks etc.;

This agreement had provisionally come into force w.e.f. 1.4.1993.

NICL, Mysore

2792. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVIN CHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Insurance Company Limited, Mysore has disowned the contractual obligation under various policies, particularly policy No. 62319 dated 30th June, 1994; and

(b) if so, the number of cases reported and facts thereof and the circumstances warranting refusal of insurer to honour its obligation to insure when prima-facie, the loss suffered was on account of piracy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) General

Insurance Corporation of India has reported that National Insurance Company Limited, Mysore did not issue policy document bearing No. 62319 dated 30th June, 1994 and also did not disown contractual obligation under any of the policies.

World Bank wants Govt. to lower Stake in Rural Banks

2793. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has advised dilution of Government equity in rural banks, particularly those into losses;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has decided to take a significant exposure in the regional rural banks as suggested that either RRBs should be merged with the sponsor commercial banks or groups of RRBs be amalgamated into more viable entities; and

(c) if so, the other suggestions made by the World Bank in regard to rural banks and to what extent the Government has accepted these recommendations and the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Based on the work conducted by the Identification and Preparation Missions fielded by the World Bank in 1996-97, the World Bank have submitted a report on a possible project for providing assistance for expanding rural credit. Assistance for recapitalisation and strengthening of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) is likely to be considered as one of the components of this project. Decision regarding ownership and management structure of RRBs will be taken by Government taking into account their role and need of rural credit.

Vysya Bank Fraud

2794. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to unstarred question No. 3139 dated December 13, 1996 regarding irregularities in Vysya Bank Ltd. and state:

(a) the number of officers in the Vysya Bank Ltd. all over the country involved in issuing cheque books on forged documents and forged signatures and for issuing cheque books on forged signatures by contravening the prescribed procedure, branch-wise;

(b) how many of the officers deputy managers and managers were issued show cause notices;

(c) the outcome of the action against the officers and the details of the action taken against the officers finally; and

(d) if the case have not yet been finalised, the reasons for the delay and the steps taken to expedite the finalisation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), four officers in Vysya Bank Ltd. were involved in issuing cheque books on forged documents.

(b) According to RBI, nine officers in Vysya Bank Ltd. were issued show-cause notices for issuing cheque books and for passing forged cheques. Besides, one Deputy Manager and one Manager were also issued show-cause notices for supervisory lapses.

(c) and (d) RBI has further reported that the Vysya Bank Ltd. have taken action/is taking action against the erring officials as per the extant disciplinary rules and service conditions of the employees/officers of the bank.

US and Other Major Trading Partners

2795. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is willing to revoke the most favoured nation MFN exception taken by it in the financial services sector, provided its major trading partners-including the US reciprocate; and

(b) if so, the reaction of U.S. and other major trading partners to India's offer to revoke MFN exception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The negotiations on Financial Services are still going on, and they are scheduled to conclude only on 12 December, 1997. India is yet to table a revised offer in these negotiations.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Loans For Higher Education

2796. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5061 dated May 7, 1997 pertaining to bank loans for higher education and state:

(a) whether information has since been collected in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard and by when the information is likely to be placed on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) As reported by the State Bank of India, the Convenor Bank for the State Level Bankers' Committee for the State of Uttar Pradesh, the details of loans sanctioned by different banks to students seeking engineering and medical education in Uttar Pradesh especially in rural and backward areas for the past three years such as 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the attached Statement.