

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Government has already set up a branch of the National Institute of Fashion Technology at Gandhinagar in Gujarat with the cooperation of the State Government. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to set up any other branch in Gujarat in any area including tribal areas.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

#### Tax Holiday to Backward Areas

3587. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to notify tax holiday for the backward areas in the advanced states; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The issue of identifying backward districts for the purposes of providing tax holiday under section 80IA was referred to a Study Group constituted in the Ministry of Finance. The report submitted by the study group constituted in this regard was reviewed by another group. The review group has submitted its report which is under consideration of the Government.

#### Profit/Loss Account of North and South Malabar Grameen Banks

3588. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of profits earned or loss suffered by North Malabar Grameen Bank and South Malabar Grameen Bank during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively;

(b) the number of branches of each of these Banks functioning as on date; and

(c) the details of expansion plan or for opening of new Branches of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that profits earned by North Malabar Gramin Bank and South Malabar Gramin Bank during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 were as follows :—

	(Rs. lakhs)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
i) North Malabar Gramin Bank	125.31	210.50	52.00

ii) South Malabar Gramin Bank	52.44	215.46	352.00
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(b) As reported by NABARD; the number of branches of North Malabar Gramin Bank and South Malabar Gramin Bank was 122 and 147 respectively as on 31.3.1996.

(c) NABARD has further reported that North Malabar Gramin Bank as proposed to extend its area of operation to districts of Ernakulam and Kottayam. It has also proposed to open a branch at Mattanoor.

NABARD has reported that South Malabar Gramin Bank has been recently permitted to open a branch at Badagara. It has proposed to open branches at Kuttiady and Kallachi in Kozikode district. The RRB has also proposed to extend its area of operation to Pallakkad and Thrissur districts.

#### Coal Potentials in Maharashtra

3589. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the established coal potential in new coal mines of Maharashtra as per survey conducted by the Government agency.

(b) whether the huge coal reserves in Maharashtra still remain unexploited.

(c) if so, the details of investment made for exploitation of coal reserves by opening of new mines during the last three years and results achieved;

(d) the details of the new investment plans finalised/cleared for opening up new coal mines in Maharashtra during the current financial year;

(e) whether the Government have received any proposal from Maharashtra State Electricity Board and other various industrial projects for opening of new coal mines in the State for their own captive requirements;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) (a) As per information furnished by Geological Survey of India (GSI), the total geological coal reserves in the different coalfields of Maharashtra upto a depth of 600 metres have been assessed as 6636 million tonnes as on 1.1.1996.

(b) Appropriate steps have been initiated for exploitation of coal in Maharashtra depending on techno-economic feasibility.

(c) During the last three years, steps have been taken for opening/developing twelve new coal projects

in the State of Maharashtra. Investment made during the last three years on these projects amounted to Rs. 145.53 crores approximately. Coal production realised in 1995-96 was 1.73 million tonnes from some projects which have started yielding coal.

(d) Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) have finalised five proposals of new coal projects during the current financial year (1996-97).

(e) to (g) Captive mining blocks in Maharashtra for power generation in that State have been identified for M/s. Nippon Denro Ispat Limited. Some other applications including MSEB for identification of captive mining blocks in Maharashtra for units in that State have also been discussed by the Screening Committee functioning in the Ministry of Coal.

#### **Bhutani currency in West Bengal**

3590. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Bhutani currency of lower denomination is found in plenty in the Duars area of the Jalpaiguri district in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **World Bank Assistance to Projects of A.P.**

3591. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amounts allocated for the development projects and canals in Andhra Pradesh with the World Bank assistance in particular to Nagarjuna Sagar, Dindi and Moosi Projects;

(b) the details of works undertaken and amount spent so far; and

(c) when the work on these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) : The World Bank has provided Loan/Credit assistance to Andhra Pradesh for the following irrigation projects :

Name of the Projects	Effectiveness Date	Closing Date	Amount (million)	Utilisation of Credit/ Loan
1. AP Irrigation and Command Area Development (Nagarjuna Sagar) Project	Sept. 1976	June 1985	136.4 (US \$ M)	127.8 (US \$ M)
2. AP Irrigation II Project	2.10.87	24.8.94	106.73 (US \$ M)	106.73
3. National Water Management Project (for Nagarjuna Sagar, Dindi, Moosi and other identified schemes)	10.8.87	31.3.95	522.8 (Rs. M)	409.5 (Rs. M) (approx.)
4. Hydrology Project	22.9.95	31.3.02	11.8 (US \$ M)	

Components of the above projects were as under :

#### **1. Andhra Pradesh Irrigation & Command Area Development Project :**

(a) Completion of Nagarjuna Sagar Project (NSP) Left Main Canal by extending it by 65 miles and increase command area by 147,000 hectares.

(b) completion of NSP Right Main Canal by extending it by 29 miles & increase command area by 140,000 hectares.

(c) construction/rehabilitation of about 1575 km of

Rural Roads, carrying out CAD works and a number of studies.

#### **2. AP II Irrigation Project :**

Expansion and improvement of irrigation in the Srisailem Right Branch Canal (SRBC) sub project (65000 hectares), Sriramsagar project, Kakatiya canal command and new developments below the Lower Manir dam.

#### **3. National Water Management Project :**

(A.P. component : For Nagarjuna Sagar, Dindi, Moosi and other identified schemes).