

for growth include gems & jewellery, oil meals, machinery and instruments, primary and semifinished iron and steel, cotton yarn, fabrics & made-ups, meat and meat products, manufacture of metals, drugs & pharmaceuticals and electronics goods.

(c) and (d) A joint delegation consisting of representatives from trade, industry and the Government has been proposed to visit some of the East Asian countries in the near future for assessing possibilities of promoting trade and investments in the current economic environment prevailing in those countries.

Overdraft Facilities by Foreign Banks

2720. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US clearing banks have stopped intra-day overdraft facilities to the State Bank of India and Bank of Baroda following the US sanctions against India;

(b) if so, to what extent Indian banks have been affected by the US banks due to the ban on overdraft facilities; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take in this regard and to maintain good trade relations with US?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), one of the leading US clearing Banks, has withdrawn intra day overdraft facilities allowed to SBI's New York Office. The Ban has, however, informed SBI that the withdrawal is purely temporary. This measure has not affected SBI as it has adequate Dollar Resources. In the case of Bank of Baroda, none of the US clearing banks has stopped this facility following the US sanctions against India.

(c) According to RBI Indian Banks operating abroad have taken measures to ensure that they have enough liquidity. Many American Banks continue to provide credit for correspondent banking products such as trade and forex as well as facilitation of the flow of international payments. As such the sanctions have not affected operations of Indian Banks.

Board of Directorate of NABARD

2721. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for not providing representation to the persons having experience in the working of Co-operative Banks on the Board of Directorate of NABARD for the last 15 years in spite of clear provision in this regard in section 6 (1) (c) of NABARD Act, 1998;

(b) whether the Government have taken/proposed to take any steps to ensure representation of two persons on the NABARD Board with experience in the working of Co-operative banks; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) In terms of the provisions of clause (c) of sub-section (1) of section 6 of the National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981, three Directors out of whom two shall be persons with experience in the working of cooperative banks and one shall be a person with experience in the working of commercial banks are required to be appointed by the Central Government on the Board of Directors of NABARD. At present there are two vacancies of Directors on the Board of Directors of NABARD, under the above category. Steps for filling up these vacancies are being taken.

Improvement in Quality of Designs

2722. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to start any scheme for improving the quality of designs of freelance designers of handloom sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States from where designers are likely to be selected under this scheme;

(d) whether the Government propose to select some foreign designers also to design cotton handloom for export purpose; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The scheme for involvement of freelance designers in the handloom sector has been in operation since 1996-97. The scheme provides, *inter alia*, assistance for development of designs to improve marketability of handloom products.

The designers are selected from all over India on the basis of criterion laid down in the scheme.

(d) and (e) The Scheme of "Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing" introduced during 1996-97 has provision for assistance for engaging foreign designers by implementing agencies on cost sharing basis. The design development may include cotton handloom for export purposes. The scheme provides inputs for designs, product development and marketing for exports.

Drinking Water Projects of CIL

2723. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the details of various projects and schemes undertaken by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) to improve the quality and quantity of drinking water coalfield-wise;