

1	2	3	4
1992-93	2560	1758	8300
1993-94	2126	913	8300
1994-95	1988	1465	7850
1995-96	1832	1240	8150
1996-97	1954	1109	7950
1997-98(P)	1678	1088	N.A.

(p) Provisional

N.A.—Not Available

\*Pertains to calendar years 1987 & 1988.

#### Corruption in New India Assurance Company

3457. SHRI RAMPAL UPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of complaints received from various employees' Unions against corruption in New India Assurance Co. Ltd. at Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a number of senior officers have either been charge-sheeted, transferred or resigned for their involvement in corruption cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of officers whose resignation has not been accepted but allowed to join in some other organisation along with reasons therefor;

(e) the details of officials who have been chargesheeted during the current year but chargesheets yet to be served on them; and

(f) the reasons for not following the company's rules in the service matters for certain section of officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 38 complaints relating to various allegations involving irregularities and corruption charges against officials of different cadres, were received during the last three years.

(c) and (d) General Insurance Corp. of India have reported that New India Assurance Co. Ltd. has stated that during the three years in question, chargesheets were issued to nine senior officials of the rank of Branch Incharge and above. Resignation of one junior official has not been accepted by the Management in view of pending

investigation by Vigilance Department on charges against him. The concerned official was advised to report for duty immediately as his resignation was not accepted. In the absence of vigilance clearance, the question of the company allowing him to join some other organisation does not arise.

(e) Nil.

(f) General Insurance Corp. of India have reported that the rules in service matters are being followed uniformly for all sections of officials.

#### Opening of New Hotels in North Eastern States

3458. SHRI BHIM DAHAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up some luxury hotels at important tourist spots in the North-Eastern States and Sikkim in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to construct some hotels and guest houses for the middle class tourists visiting these places in these States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Construction of hotels is primarily a private sector activity. However, the Ministry of Tourism provides incentives etc. as a catalyst for such investment in the hotel industry.

(c) The Ministry of Tourism has provided financial assistance to the States in the North-Eastern region including Sikkim for setting up of tourist reception centres, yatri niwas, tourist bungalows, tourist lodges and tourist cottages for the benefit of the middle class tourists visiting these places.

(d) The location where budget accommodation has been sanctioned during 1997-98 are : Passighat, Gibbonsland, Mio, Glow Lake, Ghanglung and Tipi in Arunachal Pradesh. Barpeta, Mangaldoi, Bhuban Hills, Bokakhat, Bhalukpong, Batadrava in Assam; Morch, Singda and Sekta in Manipur; Norgstoin in Meghalaya; Reiek and Vachibuk in Mizoram; Dzouku in Nagaland; Kasba, Matabari and Ambassa in Tripura.

#### Directors of RRBs

3459. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) the present policy of the Government for appointment of non-official Director in the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs);

(b) the term of such non-official Directors and in how many cases this term has been extended;

(c) when the Government issued the revised order for appointment of non-political/non-official Director in the RRBs;

(d) when the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development submitted such list of proposed Director to Government; and

(e) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) In terms of Section 9(1)(a) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, Central Government is required to nominate two non-official directors on the Board of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). Further, in terms of the Government's instructions issued in October, 1994, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) was asked to recommend to the Government the names of suitable persons for being nominated as non-official directors on the Boards of RRBs.

(b) The terms of existing non-official directors appointed by the Government on the Boards of various RRBs have already expired. However, in terms of Section 10 of Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, a director (other than the Chairman) shall hold office for such period not exceeding two years from the date when he assumes office, and may, on the expiry of the said period continue to hold office until his successor has been nominated.

(c) to (e) In terms of recent circular instructions issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in November, 1997 giving enlarged role to the sponsor banks in the management of RRBs, sponsor banks have been asked to prepare suitable panels for their respective RRBs and transmit the same to the Government for appropriate consideration. The sponsor banks have been asked to ensure that while preparing such panels due weightage is given to professionals like economists, agricultural economists, scientists, chartered accountants, financial analysts, lawyers or persons drawn from specialized subject areas such as small scale industries, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture. Further, retired senior bank officers from the area could also be considered. Accordingly, the Government will exercise its jurisdiction under Section 9(1) (a) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, in the light of the recommendations made by the sponsor banks.

It would be difficult to lay down any specific time frame by which the entire exercise of finalising nominations will be completed.

#### Promotion in the Grade of Income Tax Officer

3460. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent decision of CAT regarding promotion from Income Tax Inspector to the post of Income Tax Officer which mandates adoption of two-pronged policy;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the CAT has been implemented;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) The CAT, Jabalpur bench dismissed certain petitions filed questioning validity of Recruitment Rules for promotion to the post of Income Tax Officer.

(b) to (d) does not arise.

#### Procurement of Cotton by CCI in Karnataka

3461. SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cotton Corporation of India has procured cotton from the farmers of Karnataka during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action proposed by the Government for the procurement of cotton from the farmers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of cotton purchased by CCI in Karnataka during the years 1996-97 (Oct.-Sept.) and 1997-98 (is on 3.7.98) is 52,123 bales and 22,632 bales, respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

#### Export of Iron Ore to Japan

3462. DR. SUGUNA KUMARI CHELLAMELLA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of iron ore to Japan from Visakhapatnam port has come to a standstill since June, 1988;