

(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;