

(b) the reasons for sharp decline in the export of hosiery products during the last year and the first quarter of current year; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to cover the shortfall?

THE MINISTER FOR TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) No separate export targets are fixed for hosiery products. The exports of hosiery products (knitted garments) during the last three years and the first quarter of the current year have been as follows :

	Value in US Million dollars
1995-96	1223.2
1996-97	1488.2
1997-98	1605.3
1998-99 (April-June 98)	390.7

There has been no decline in the export of hosiery products during the above period.

Market Development Assistance Programme

3497. SHRI K.P.- NAIDU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some State Governments have requested for the continuance of the Market Development Assistance Programme and Handloom Development Centres for Weavers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The Market Development Assistance Scheme stands discontinued from April 1, 1998. On the basis of requests received from some State Governments for continuation of this scheme, the matter is being reviewed.

The Handloom Development Centre Scheme was in operation upto 1997-98. Proposals for sanctions under the Scheme have been received from some State Governments in the current year also. Further continuation of the Scheme would depend upon the outcome of an overall assessment of the Scheme being done in consultation with the State Governments & NABARD.

Surplus Land of NTC

3498 SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total area of surplus land owned by the closed NTC mills in Gujarat, as on date;

(b) the market value of this surplus land and whether any complaints regarding encroachments of this land have been noticed;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to sell this surplus land with a view to earn revenue;

(d) whether Government have any discussion with the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) The NTC have a total surplus area of 107.88 acres valued at Rs. 37.74 crores in Gujarat. No mill under NTC has been closed in Gujarat. Some encroachment on the lands of NTC mills has been reported and appropriate action is being taken.

(c) to (e) The surplus lands of NTC are proposed to be sold with a view to raising funds for revival of NTC mills. The matter has been taken up with the State Governments, including the Government of Gujarat.

[Translation]

Ban on Taking Profit Abroad

3499. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed any restrictions on foreign investors to take capital flow and profit on investment to their country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether foreign investor can withdraw his amount at any time or he has to wait for the block year; and

(d) the total foreign investment made alongwith investment made by Non-Resident Indians, till date country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (c) There are no restrictions on the repatriation or capital and dividends in respect of foreign investment except that a condition of dividend balancing is imposed for foreign investment in 22 specified industries in the consumer goods sector. Under the condition of dividend balancing out flows of foreign exchange on account of dividend payments are to be balanced by export earnings.

(d) Country-wise inflow of foreign direct investments (including NRI's) from 1-7-1991 to 31-12-1997 is given in the statement attached.

Statement*Countrywise Inflow of Foreign Investment (Including NRIs) from 1.7.1991 to 31.12.1997*

Sl.No.	Country Name	Inflow Amt. (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Argentina	00.03
2.	Australia	110.53
3.	Austria	56.22
4.	Bahamas	25.61
5.	Baharain	03.18
6.	Belgium	186.88
7.	Belorussia	01.68
8.	Bhutan	04.69
9.	Bolivia	01.74
10.	Brazil	01.16
11.	Bermuda	55.60
12.	British Virginia	11.49
13.	British West Indies	00.70
14.	Canada	60.15
15.	Channel Island	02.15
16.	Caymen Islands	03.00
17.	China	01.69
18.	Cyprus	36.86
19.	Czech Republic	01.06
20.	Denmark	172.19
21.	Egypt	00.60
22.	Estonia	03.10
23.	Finland	58.11
24.	France	503.67
25.	Germany	1574.40
26.	Greece	00.50
27.	Hongkong	554.03
28.	Hungary	01.10
29.	Indonesia	11.24
30.	Isle of Man	01.73
31.	Iran	34.60

1	2	3
32.	Ireland	16.80
33.	Israel	64.77
34.	Italy	238.18
35.	Japan	1521.52
36.	Jordon	00.0088
37.	South Korea	1504.25
38.	Kuwait	03.88
39.	Leichtenstein	06.13
40.	Luxembourg	23.78
41.	Malaysia	92.32
42.	Mauritius	7690.50
43.	Malta	00.12
44.	Mexico	00.006
45.	Muscat	00.89
46.	Netherlands	1549.18
47.	Nevis	00.10
48.	Norway	11.26
49.	NRI	566.52
50.	Oman	07.91
51.	Panama	07.94
52.	Philippines	173.12
53.	Poland	00.35
54.	Qatar	00.0025
55.	Romania	00.07
56.	Russia	13.93
57.	Saudi Arabia	04.20
58.	Sigapore	498.44
59.	Slovakia	00.02
60.	South Africa	00.0006
61.	Spain	15.78
62.	Sri Lanka	01.40
63.	Sweden	325.12
64.	Switzerland	612.37
65.	Taiwan	28.13
66.	Tanzania	00.19

1	2	3
67.	Thailand	226.93
68.	UAE	20.87
69.	Ukraine	00.54
70.	United Kingdom	1828.75
71.	USA	5223.83
72.	USSR	02.53
73.	Virgin Islands	58.32
74.	West Indies	02.38

Saving Bank Account

3500. SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping minimum big balance continuously in the saving accounts in the banks has been made compulsory;

(b) whether this amount somehow takes the form of fixed deposit and less salaried persons are exploited due to the less interest in their saving balance as a result thereof;

(c) whether it is also mandatory to keep a large amount in current account and interest is also not paid thereon and instead some charges are charged;

(d) whether the Government propose to consider this amount as Fixed Term Deposit for one year, so that the account holder can earn more interest in order to end such exploitation; and

(e) 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) to (c) Reserve Bank of India has not stipulated any minimum balance in Saving Bank/Current Account. Such stipulations are made by individual banks taking into account the cost of maintaining/servicing the accounts. The minimum balance stipulated by the banks for Saving Bank Account cannot be considered as or on par with Fixed Deposits. Less salaried persons cannot be considered as exploited as the present rate of interest of 4.5% p.a. on Saving Bank Account is reasonable taking into account that a significant proportion of Saving Bank Account are utilised essentially in the same manner as Current Accounts. No interest is payable on credit balances in Current Account whether large or small, as the funds are withdrawable on demand.

The banks are unable to profitably deploy the funds in current account.

It is understood that some banks levy certain service charges on the accounts if the minimum balance goes below the stipulated levels (amounts) till the accounts are regularised by the depositors.

(d) and (e) It would not be appropriate to consider minimum balance stipulated by banks either in Saving Bank Accounts or in Current Accounts as Fixed Deposits for one year. Saving Bank Deposits are flexible with negligible stipulations regarding transactions in the accounts. The account holders are provided with Cheque Book facilities and Cheque collection facilities. Moreover, the minimum period of domestic term deposits was reduced from 46 days to 30 days from July 2, 1996 and from 30 days to 15 days from April, 29, 1998 so that depositors may earn interest on their short term deposits which will be fairly liquid and could be utilised in case of contingency.

[English]

Writing off of Loans by Banks

3501. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of bad debts written off by each public sector banks during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for which such huge amounts are written off by public sector banks every year;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to streamline the working of public sector banks and fix responsibility for bad debts?

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 amount of bad debts written off by the public sector banks during the last three years is given in the statement.

(b) The introduction of Financial Sector Reforms and revised guidelines have necessitated banks to desist from the practice of taking unrealised income in their books and also to provide against possible loan losses. Due to their increased sensitivity to credit risk, banks are laying emphasis on reduction of NPAs. The banks have broadly two alternatives for recovery of bad loans :

1. File suit which may take years to settle and even if banks get decree in their favour, recovery of the dues may be time assuming. The recovery of dues after efflux of much time may not be