

### Merger of Banks

2522.DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to effect merger of nationalised banks to lower their existing number or to merge them into a single banking corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) There is no such proposal under the consideration of the Government at present.

(b) Does not arise.

### Disinvestment Commission

2523.SHRI G.M.BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has recommended that disinvestment should be delinked from the annual budgetary exercise;

(b) if so, details of the recommendation; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) While recommending the setting up of the Disinvestment Fund, the Disinvestment Commission has suggested the delinking of disinvestment from the annual budgetary exercise.

(c) The recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission is being examined by the Government.

[Translation]

### Production and Consumption of Cement

2524.SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production and consumption of cement in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to fill the gap between demand and supply of cement in the State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) On the basis of statistical reports published by the Cement Manufacturers' Association, the production and consumption of cement in respect of large cement plant in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as follows :

(in lakh tonnes)

Year	Production	Consumption
1995-96	11.59	67.35
1996-97	9.33	73.94
1997-98	7.47	83.82

Data regarding production and consumption relating to mini cement plants is not maintained centrally.

(b) Cement industry is decontrolled and delicensed and entrepreneurs are free to set up cement plants anywhere subject to locational clearance. Government is providing all infrastructural support to the industry to maximise cement production. Rail wagons are being provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.

[English]

### Pay Scales of RRB

2525.SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed the revised pay scale of equated status of Government of Madhya Pradesh to the then field supervisors of Regional Rural Banks, Madhya Pradesh on March 20, 1993;

(b) if so, whether all the RRBs in the State have honoured this order issued by NABARD; and

(c) 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 & INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARATHANAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had allowed the revised pay scales of equated status of Madhya Pradesh Government to the then Field Supervisors of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), in Madhya Pradesh (M.P) on March, 20, 1993;

(b) and (c) As reported by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), only six RRBs in Madhya Pradesh have implemented this order. In terms of the order, the pay scales of Field Supervisors were required to be equated with those applicable to Extension Officers (Veterinary) of the State Government which were higher as compared to the scales applicable to Block Development Officers (Ordinary Grade) with which Branch Managers of RRBs were equated. As such, implementation of the order would have created an anomalous situation whereby the Field Supervisors would have been fitted in higher scales as compared to Branch Managers. Accordingly, the matter has been referred by NABARD to the Government for appropriate consideration.