

cases of overdues. Banks will be encouraged to provide appropriate relief on accumulated interest in deserving cases. The new procedure should also help in reducing the outstanding volume of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the banking sector."

[Translation]

Employment to Displaced Persons of Lalmatiya Mines

2758. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether many displaced persons of Lalmatiya mines are still remained without employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the employment to the remaining displaced persons of Lalmatiya mines is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) As on date, the number of project affected families in Lalmatiya Mines (Rajmahal Project) has been worked out as 317. As reported by Coal India Ltd., all the 1006 eligible persons in these 317 families have been provided with employment.

Closure of Offices of IFCI

2759. PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., propose to close or degrade its offices located at Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Pune and Kochi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) and (b) Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited (IFCI) has reported that there is no proposal to close the offices of IFCI at Guwahati, Bhubaneswar, Patna, Pune and Kochi. As per restructuring plan of IFCI approved by its Board of Directors, the business functions at various offices have been reorganised and the said offices of IFCI continue to attend to important functions like marketing and business development, customer relations, inspection, recovery and resource mobilisation.

[English]

Service Conditions of Private Sector Banks

2760. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are no consolidated orders guidelines issued by the Government on the service matters of private sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the management of the banks in private sector treat its officers and staff differently in utter violation of Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution i.e. arbitrary and discriminatory;

(d) if so, the safeguards available to the private sector employees against the discriminatory and arbitrary actions of the management and utter abuse of authority by the management;

(e) whether there is any proposal to make rules for the service conditions of private sector bank employees;

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken for the participation of private sector bank employees' unions in the management of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (g) In Private Sector Banks the service conditions of their employees are determined by their management and it is not feasible for Government to issue any directions or guidelines in the matter. The Banks have freedom to decide the service matters with the approval of their Board. Accordingly the wage structure and service conditions can vary from Bank to Bank. Private Sector Banks are not 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India. The rules governing the service matters framed by the Banks generally provide a mechanism for redressal of grievances. For settlement of disputes between unions and the managements the machinery of labour courts provided under industrial disputes act is made use of.

Illegal Import of Spices and Cash Crops

2761. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have noticed the import of spices and cash crops in the name of dry fruits through Nepal to India;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected so far; and

(c) the action taken to prevent it in the least interest of our farming/producing community?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (c) The required information is being collected from the Customs Houses through the Department of Revenue and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.