

- (i) **Approval given to new foreign banks**
Bank Muscat Al Ahli Al Omani Bangalore
- (ii) **Approval given to existing foreign banks for additional branches**
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Deutsche Bank | Chennai |
| Bank International Indonesia | Chennai |
| ING Bank | New Delhi |
| Commerzbank | New Delhi |
| State Bank of Mauritius | Hyderabad |
| British Bank of the Middle East | New Delhi |
| Citibank | Pune |
| Bank of Nova Scotia | Bangalore |
| Credit Lyonnais | Calcutta |
| ABN Amro Bank | Baroda |

(c) Reserve Bank of India considers the request of the foreign banks to open their maiden branch in India by laying emphasis on certain criteria which inter-alia include financial soundness of the bank, international presence, economic and political relations between the two countries, standard of supervision in home country etc. Further, the country of the incorporation should not discriminate against Indian banks.

The minimum capital requirement for a new bank is US \$ 25 million spread over three branches as under :

- (i) US \$ 10 million for the first branch
- (ii) additional US \$ 10 million for the second branch
- (iii) Further US \$ 5 mn for the third branch

The applications of existing foreign banks to open additional branches are considered on merits taking into account the bank's financial position and track record.

Vacancies in Customs

1525. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of vacancies of Assistance Commissioners of Customs are lying vacant in Gujarat State for long time:

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

(c) the time by which all the vacancies are proposed to be filled?

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) Four posts of Assistant Commissioners in Gujarat - 2 each in Ahmedabad and Kandla Customs, are lying vacant for the last few months on account of administrative reasons and these posts are likely to be filled up within a fortnight.

Role of Statutory Bodies

1526. SHRI INDRAJEET GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the role of statutory bodies which are supposed to monitor the activities of the private financial institutions is not very encouraging;

(b) if so, whether State Governments particularly Delhi Government have written letters to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken, if any, by the Union Government in this connection?

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) and (b) Non-Banking Financial Institutions (NBFCs) are regulated by the RBI under the provisions of RBI Act. Additional powers were vested in RBI in January, 1997 and RBI has recently framed extensive regulations for regulating NBFCs. Lt. Governor of Delhi has written a letter to Ministry wherein he has made observations and suggestions concerning regulation of NBFCs.

(c) The letter of Lt. Governor of Delhi along with suggestions from other sources constitute valuable inputs in the ongoing efforts by Government and RBI to ensure increasingly improved regulation and supervision of the NBFC sector.

[Translation]

Compensation to the Workers of CCL

1527. SHRI RAVINDAR KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of displaced persons and their dependents who have been provided compensation any jobs on compassionate ground by the CCL during the past three years till April, 1998;

(b) the number of such cases still pending under the Central Coalfields Limited;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to dispose of such pending cases so far; and

(d) the time by which such pending cases are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) During the past three years and till April' 98, 593 persons have been paid compensation against land acquired under CBA Act, C.C.L. has also provided 432 employments to the land losers during this period.

(b) Approximately 625 awardees under C.B.A. Act have not been paid compensation due to dispute over ownership of the land, proper land records and dispute regarding the number of legal heirs. In addition to above, 537 cases for revision of compensation, settling ownership disputes etc. are pending with the Tribunal.

(c) Steps taken by the CCL for early payment of compensation to displaced persons are as under:-

(1) CCL is holding camps in each village at regular interval for making payment of compensation to the awardees.

(2) The awardees are personally contacted and persuaded for taking payment after producing land records.

(3) At times local state authorities, respected citizens as well as NGOs are also requested for convincing the awardees for accepting the payment.

(4) The cases pending before the tribunal for revision of compensation amount are regularly followed up for early disposal.

(d) The cases pending for payment of compensation are vigorously pursued to facilitate payments within a reasonable time. However in respect of cases pending with the tribunal, disposal of cases depends on the Presiding Officers.

[English]

Withdrawal of Cess on Coal

1528. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the cess on coal;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the effect of the said decision on the coal producing States; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the financial position of the coal producing States are not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (c) Several State Governments had in the past imposed cesses on coal. The Supreme Court and various High Courts have struck down the Cess Acts of Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. The Governments of Assam and Meghalaya had withdrawn their cesses on Coal. West Bengal is the only coal producing State which is still continuing to levy the cesses on the strength of a stay order obtained from the Supreme Court on an appeal filed by them in the Supreme Court against a Judgement of the High Court of Calcutta striking down the Cess Acts of West Bengal. The main reason for enhancing the rates of royalty in 1991 was to compensate the State Governments for the loss of their cess revenues due to the Courts striking down their levy of cesses.

[Translation]

Sick Units

1529. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN :

SHRI DATTA MEGHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of sick units in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance to sick units;

(c) if so, the financial assistance provided to sick units during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether some of the proposal for providing financial assistance to sick units are pending with the Union Government; and

(e) if so, the State-wise details thereof and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?