

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken to help the farmers who have been on the verge of desperation as low grade tobacco was not being lifted?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Manufacturers, exporters and traders of FCV Tobacco agreed to purchase the balance quantities of about 26 million kgs of the authorised FCV tobacco crop of all grades of Karnataka (1998 crop) at an average price ranging from Rs. 16.50 per kg to Rs. 55 per kg. Further, efforts are also being made to ensure exports of large quantities of low grade tobacco to Russia under the Debt Repayment route which would help in liquidating the excess stocks of low grade tobacco in the country.

Financial Assistance to NEHDC

1519. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHDC) has submitted any proposal for financial assistance for schemes for manufacturing of cane, bamboo and wooden goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) to (c) The North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHDC), Shillong has submitted a proposal during 1997-98 for setting up of Common Facility Centre for procurement/processing and finishing of cane and bamboo products in order to cater to the needs of artisans of North East Region. A sum of Rs. 32.00 lakhs has been sanctioned to the Corporation and Rs. 15.00 lakhs have already been released so far and balance will be released according to progress of work and audited statements.

Credit Deposit Ratio

1520. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high level Central team visited Bihar to discuss the State's Credit Deposit Ratio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Credit Deposit Ratio of Bihar is lowest in the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government 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) and (b) The State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting for Bihar held in Patna on January 7, 1999 was attended, among others, by the Union Finance Minister, senior representatives of participating Banks, Financial Institutions and State Government of Bihar. The Credit Deposit (CD) Ratio of banks in Bihar, among other issues, was also discussed in the meeting.

(c) and (d) The C.D. Ratio of public sector banks as at the end of March 1998 was 27.1 per cent for Bihar and 54.0 per cent for the country as a whole. In order to look into the reasons for low CD ratio in Bihar and suggest measures for improvement, a task force was set up comprising of senior officers of RBI, State Government, SLBC Convener Bank, and representatives of banks in the State. Action on the recommendations of the task force is an ongoing process and the progress in this regard is monitored at periodic intervals by State Level Bankers Committee.

Financial Restructuring of SAIL

1521. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited has requested the Government for financial restructuring which primarily envisages adjustment of loans from Steel Development Fund and Government loans to TISCO through SAIL;

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

(c) the names of such new companies which are not contributing to Steel Development Fund; and