

(c) to (e) Private investment (foreign and domestic) in infrastructure has shown an increasing trend over the recent years. Over the period 1st August, 1991 to 31st March, 1998, the power sector has witnessed aggregate FDI approval of Rs. 2,55,68 crore. In telecommunications, FDI worth Rs. 30,725 crore has been approved over the same period. Approvals for air/sea transport and ports have been Rs. 2,490 crore. These account for 37 per cent of the total FDI approvals during the period. The domestic private investment in infrastructure sectors has also increased substantially. Over the period August, 1991 to May, 1998, total private investment in telecom sector in terms of IEMs and LOIs has been Rs. 14,648 crore. In transportation, IEMs and LOIs resulted in an aggregate investment of Rs. 22,060 crore over the same period.

(f) Policy is to step up public sector investment and to facilitate private investment in infrastructure projects. In 1998-99 Budget, Plan Outlay for Key infrastructure sectors of Energy, Transport and Communication has been increased by 35 per cent from Rs. 45,252 crore in 1997-98 (RE) to Rs. 61,146 crore in 1998-99 (BE). The Union Budget, 1998-99 has also introduced measures for facilitating private investment. These include permission for 10 per cent of new accretion to provident funds to be invested in private sector securities, extension of fiscal incentives available for infrastructure industries to inland waterways and inland ports, enhancing investor confidence in power sector by establishing Central and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and providing a guarantee scheme to cover dues from SEBs and designating one nodal officer to help processing and implementation of large projects etc.

[Translation]

#### **Scheme for Production of Silk**

5447. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are implementing any scheme for boosting silk production in Uttar Pradesh; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the details of the areas selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to supplement efforts of the State Sericulture Department, the Central Silk Board (CSB) is implementing a large number of schemes/projects/programmes for promoting development of all the 4 types of silk. These includes schemes for extension of R & D training, infrastructure extension support to the sector through a new work of CSB units and implementation of certain development/investments/financial assistance schemes for encouraging adoption of modern sericulture practices for production of quality silk. Besides CSB also takes up specific sericulture project like World Bank assisted NSP, Action Plan for the North Eastern States, Poorvanchal Sericulture Development Project etc., in association/collaboration with the States. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned some of the specific projects taken up by CSB are as follows:

- (i) A Poorvanchal Sericulture Development Project is being implemented jointly with Department of Sericulture, Government of Uttar Pradesh in the 3 districts of Uttar Pradesh viz. Varanasi, Ghazipur and Bhadohi at a total cost of Rs. 5.64 crores over a period of six years between 1993-94 and June, 1999. The project envisages raising of 3000 acres of mulberry plantation in the above 3 districts and an incremental raw silk production of 77.1 MT per annum by the end of the project period.
- (ii) Under the National Sericulture Project which was implemented in the districts of Dehradun, Saharanpur and Haridwar infrastructure facilities were created such as basic seed farms, silkworm seed production centre, cocoon markets, demonstration cum training centre, etc.
- (iii) To boost silk production 34 catalytic development schemes have been sanctioned for the IXth Plan period.

[English]

#### **Settlement of Irrecoverable Debt Cases of Banks**

5448. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has decided to appoint Judges to enquire into the settlement of cases of Banks involving irrecoverable debts from the borrowers;
- (b) if so, the total number of such cases;
- (c) the total amount involved; and
- (d) the steps being considered to recover the 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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that six public sector banks have set up Settlement Advisory Committee each consisting of a retired Judge of High Courts as Chairman, a retired banker and General Managers of the banks as members to advise their Boards/Management Committees in the matter relating to one time settlement. The committee is advisory in nature.

(b) and (c) RBI has reported that the data monitoring system does not generate information in this regard.

(d) Reserve Bank of India/Government of India/Banks have taken number of steps not only to check the fresh incidence of NPA but also to ensure recovery of NPAs. These are:

- (i) All public sector banks have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors
- (ii) Banks have been advised to reduce their NPAs through negotiated settlements to ensure maximum

recovery at minimum expenses. However, in this regard precaution is to be taken while arriving at compromising level has also been laid down.

- (iii) Recovery Cells have been set up at Head Office under a General Manager and branch-wise targets have been set up by banks. Performance of branches in recovery is monitored by Head Office on monthly basis and Board of Directors are kept informed of the progress on quarterly basis.
- (iv) Debt Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Patna and Jabalpur and an Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai have been set up to assist speedy recoveries of bank dues.
- (v) Compilation and circulation of list of defaulters/suit filed account of Rs. one crore and above to all banks and Financial Institutions.
- (vi) The Board of Directors reviewed top 300 NPAs with special reference to the system prevailing in the banks to fix staff accountability.
- (vii) Banks may, if they so choose, set up Asset Reconstruction Companies.

[*Translation*]

#### PAN

5449. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to exempt some categories of people from mandatory requirement of getting PAN (Permanent Account Number);
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken 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) There is no proposal to exempt any class or category of persons from applying for allotment of Permanent Account Number (PAN) under the new series if such persons are otherwise, required to apply for the same in accordance with the conditions laid down in sub-section (1) of section 139A of Income Tax Act, 1961.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, (b) and (c) do not arise.

#### Expansion of Tea Board

5450. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantity of tea produced by the Tea Board;
- (b) whether the Tea Board proposes to expand its sales outlets in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of such new places, where the Tea Board proposes to open its branches during 1998-99, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Tea Board is a promotional organisation set-up for development of the tea industry. The Board is therefore not directly involved in operations like commercial production and sale of tea.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*English*]

#### Revolving Credit Card Facility

5451. SHRI A. SIDDARAJU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Master Card and Visa Cards issued by the Canara Bank in Karnataka and number of such cards issued in Bangalore city;
- (b) whether revolving credit facility to these card-holders has been discontinued;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to reintroduce the above facility.

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): Canara Bank have furnished the following information:

(a) Total number of Visa and Master Cards issued by Canara Bank in Karnataka is 29843 (Twenty nine thousand eight hundred and forty three). Number of such Cards issued in Bangalore City is 17654 (Seventeen thousand six hundred and fifty four).

(b) and (c) Canara Bank's Visa Card is only a charge card and no revolving facility is given right from inception. In respect of Master Card, 623 Card holders in Karnataka and 479 in Bangalore City are enjoying credit facility. Wherever credit revolving facility is offered, the same is being continued even now. However, due to software problem, from October 1997 Mastercard is being issued as charge card and no revolving facility is given.

(d) Bank has initiated action to develop new software.

[*Translation*]

#### Cement Industry

5452. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cement industry manufacturing spurious cement has been unearthed in the industrial estates on the Gorakhpur road in Deoria, Uttar Pradesh;