

establishment and upto 30.6.1998, 3241 references from sick industrial companies were received under the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act 1985. 2254 cases were registered by BIFR out of which 1683 cases have been disposed off.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Participation of Private Sector in Tourism

*548. SHRI A.C. JOS:

SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Tourism Policy with a thrust to encourage participation of private sector and better co-ordination between various connected Ministries has been mooted by the Government;

(b) If so, the total flow of foreign tourists into the country during the year 1997 and during the first six months of the current year;

(c) whether with better co-ordination and provision of more facilities, more and more tourists are likely to be attracted to India; and

(d) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to the foreign tourists in India?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals into the country during 1997 were 2.37 million and during the first six months of the current year were 1.14 million.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps being taken by the Government to provide better facilities to foreign tourists in India include improvement of the Infrastructural Facilities, product Development, Effective Marketing better facilitation and Human Resources Development.

Agricultural Export Policy

*549. SHRI K. P. NAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of long term agricultural export policy of the country; and

(b) the list of high priority sectors which qualify for automatic approval by the Foreign Investment Board for Foreign Equity upto 51%?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) The policy of the government regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Export regime in respect of agri-

cultural products has been liberalised. Very few items are now either prohibited for exports or their exports are restricted or are subject to quantitative ceilings. Major items for which the exports are banned include wheat and wheat products and sugar except under preferential quota to the EU/USA.

(b) The list of high priority sectors in the area of agricultural production, plantations and manufacture of food products, which qualify for automatic approval by the Foreign Investment Board for Foreign Equity upto 51% is given below:

Agricultural Production: Agricultural production not elsewhere classified (n.e.c); Certified high yielding hybrid seeds and synthetic seeds.

Plantations: Plantation n.e.c.; Certified high yielding plantations developed through plant tissue culture.

Manufacture of Food Products: Preparation and preservation of meat; Preservation of meats except by canning; Processing and canning of meat; Manufacture of dairy products; Manufacture of milk powder, ice-cream, powder and condensed milk except baby milk foods; Manufacture of baby milk foods; Manufacture of butter, cream, ghee, cheese and Khoya etc; Manufacture of pasteurised milk whether or not in bottles/polythene packs etc. (plain or flavoured); Manufacture of other dairy products n.e.c.; Canning and preservation of fruits and vegetables; Sun-drying of fruits and vegetables; Artificial dehydration of fruits and vegetables; Radiation preservation of fruits and vegetables; Manufacture of fruit/vegetable juices and their concentrates, squashes and powders; Manufacture of sauces, jams, jellies, and marmalades etc; Canning of fruits and vegetables; Fruit and vegetable preservation n.e.c.; Processing, canning and preserving of fish, crustacea and similar foods; Grain milling; Flour milling by power machine; Other grain milling and processing activities n.e.c.; Production of common salt; Manufacture of cocoa products and sugar confectionery (including sweetmeats); Manufacture of cocoa products, starch and its derivatives, food products n.e.c; soya texture proteins, soya protein isolates, soya protein concentrates, other specified products of soya bean, winterised and deodorised refined soyabean oil.

[Translation]

Non-Performing Assets

*550. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the non-performing assets of Indian Banks were about 17% of the total loans granted in 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above percentage is comparatively much higher than that of the foreign banks;

(d) if so, the average percentage thereof in Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan, Japan, America and England, separately; and

(e) 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 AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Gross Non-performing assets (NPAs) amounting to 17.84% of the gross advances as on 31.3.1997 relate to the loans sanctioned till 1996.

(b) The net NPAs of the public sector banks and foreign banks for the year ended 31.3.97 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) The performance of the public sector banks cannot be compared with that of foreign banks, keeping in view the geographical spread of the branches of public sector banks throughout the length and breadth of the country, categories of customers served, obligation to lend in rural areas as well as the extent of modernisation achieved by the public sector banks.

(d) and (e) Estimates of percentage of net NPAs in Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, USA and England have been reported to be low. Indications available after the East Asian crisis point to a much higher existence of NPAs in some of these countries as compared to estimates earlier available. It may also be mentioned that the practice relating to classification of NPAs is not common to all countries.

Statement

Non-performing assets of public sector banks and foreign bank. as on 31.3.97

Public Sector Banks

Name of the Bank	%age of net NPAs to net advances
1	2
State Bank of India	7.30
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	7.96
State Bank of Hyderabad	11.42
State Bank of Indore	11.29
State Bank of Mysore	10.96
State Bank of Patiala	5.88
State Bank of Saurashtra	6.47
State Bank of Travancore	8.82
Total for State Bank Group	7.70
Allahabad Bank	14.84
Andhra bank	4.10
Bank of Baroda	8.94

	1	2
Bank of India		6.52
Bank of Maharashtra		9.66
Canara Bank		9.32
Central Bank of India		14.40
Corporation Bank		3.63
Dena Bank		9.40
Indian Bank		25.24
Indian Overseas Bank		7.64
Oriental Bank of Commerce		5.64
Punjab & Sind Bank		12.04
Punjab National Bank		10.38
Syndicate Bank		7.53
UCO Bank		13.73
Union Bank of India		6.98
United Bank of India		18.70
Vijaya Bank		9.56
Total for Nationalised Banks		10.07
Total for Public Sector Banks		9.18

Foreign Banks

Name of Bank	% of net NPAs to net Advances
1	2
American Express Bank	3.26
ANZ Grindlays Bank	0.30
Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank	1.54
ABN Amro Bank	0.42
Arab Bangladesh Bank(*)	Nil
British Bank of the M.E.	6.46
Barclays Bank	5.10
Banque Nationale de Paris	Nil
Banque Indosuez	6.75
Bank of America	0.07
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd.	17.36
Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait	9.36

1	2	<i>[English]</i>
		Financial Assistance to the States
Bank of Nova Scotia	7.46	*551. PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:
Bank of Ceylon	4.78	(a) whether some States including Jammu and Kashmir are facing financial crunch;
Bank International Indonesia (*)	Nil	(b) if so, whether these States have approached the Union Government to overcome their problem;
Citibank N.A.	0.63	(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Union Government thereon;
Chase Manhattan Bank	Nil	(d) whether wasteful and lavish spendings have also been found as a cause for such a crunch;
Commerzbank	Nil	(e) if so, the details thereof;
Credit Lyonnais	0.43	(f) the immediate financial assistance sought by each State; and
Chinatrust Commercial Bank (*)	Nil	(g) the reaction of the Union Government in regard thereto?
Cho Hung Bank (*)	Nil	THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):
Commercial Bank of Korea	Nil	(a) to (c) (f) and (g) Some States have passed through periodic Ways and Means problems. The position of cash balance and overdrawals, if any, of State Governments varies from day to day and State to State.
Dvpt. Bank of Singapore	5.61	The Ministry of Finance have received requests from some of the State Governments for financial assistance. The requests are of the following types:
Deutsche Bank	1.77	(i) To help the State Governments in meeting the cost of revised pay scales of their employees.
Dresdner Bank	Nil	(ii). To help the State Governments to tide over Ways and Means difficulties and to get over their overdrafts; and
Fuji Bank Ltd.	Nil	(iii). Other requests like write off and deferment of their loan repayment liability to Government of India, and additional plan assistance.
Hongkong Bank	3.14	As regards the request for financial assistance for pay revision, the concerned State Governments have been conveyed the view that Government of India is not in a position to give any additional financial assistance and that they would have to raise the resources to meet the additional financial requirement, if they go in for pay revision.
ING Bank	Nil	Ways and Means Advances have been given to 9 (nine) State Governments for clearing their overdrafts. A Statement thereon is attached.
Krung Thai Bank P.C.L.	Nil	Issues relating to loan deferment/write off fall within the purview of the Eleventh Finance Commission.
Mashreq Bank	22.84	(d) and (e) The States are autonomous under the Constitution and the financial management of the States is the responsibility of the concerned State Governments for which they are responsible to their respective legislatures.
Oman International Bank	5.33	
Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation	Nil	
Sanwa Bank Ltd.	0.22	
Sakura Bank Ltd.	1.10	
Standard Chartered Bank	2.86	
Societe Generale	4.53	
Sonali Bank	Nil	
Siam Commercial Bank PCL	Nil	
State Bank of Mauritius	30.72	
Total	2.50	

(*) These banks were set up during 1996-97.