

Language to form an official language cadre and fill up the related vacancies. RBI co-ordinates the review meetings through the Official Language Implementation Committee of public sector banks, from time to time. In one such review meeting a few posts were found vacant, as on 31st March, 1998, in Andhra Bank, Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Central Bank of India, Dena Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, Bank of India, State Bank of India, UCO Bank, Vijaya Bank, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Mysore. The banks have been advised to take necessary steps to fill up the vacant posts by promotion or direct recruitment as per requirement.

RBI and some of the public sector banks have reported that bilingual software i.e. English and Hindi is being used in computers, and bilingual word processors are used by some of the banks. The Indian Banks' Association has advised the public sector banks to develop bilingual software for data processing for banking transactions.

Hindustan Engineering Corporation Ltd.

*555. SHRI RAMTAHAL CHAUDHARY:

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of goods sold by Hindustan Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi during the last three years;

(b) the names of the departments to whom these were sold alongwith the quantity of goods sold to each department;

(c) whether the quality of the items sold by the HEC is not upto the mark;

(d) if so, whether the orders were placed to the private firms instead of HEC as a result thereof;

(e) if so, whether responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(f) is so, the details thereof and action taken by the company to improve the quality of their product?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT):
(a) Value of goods sold by Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi during the last three years:

1995-96	Rs. 21,129 lakhs
1996-97	Rs. 24,917 lakhs
1997-98	Rs. 21,628 lakhs

(b) Details of department-wise break-up of goods sold by value are given below:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Steel/SAIL	8158	9181	7546
Mining/CIL	7386	8611	9505
Railways	599	1832	723
Power	900	250	172
Defence	1168	788	1259
Others	2918	4255	2423
Total	21129	24917	21628

Since the items involved are heterogeneous in nature, value rather than quantity has been indicated.

(c) No, Sir. Items supplied by HEC in the above period have generally been found to be acceptable in the market. Neither has HEC been disqualified nor have any orders placed been cancelled due to poor quality of products in the last three years.

(d) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Gold Ornaments

*556. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India have achieved great success in the field of export of gold ornaments as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of gold ornaments exported during each of the last four years; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to boost export of gold ornaments?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) The export of gold jewellery from India has shown a healthy trend over the last few years. In a period of 5 years between 1992-93 to 1997-98, exports have gone up by 117%. India has emerged as a stable exporter of gold jewellery in the world market which is evident from the consistent upward growth in the exports of gold jewellery over the last four years:

Export of Gold Jewellery

(Value in US \$ million)

1994-95	1995-96	%Growth	1996-97	%Growth	1997-98	%Growth
421.20	480.40	14.05	511.80	6.53	572.30	11.82

Source: DGCI & S

However India's share in world trade in gold jewellery is very small.

Given the vast potential in the country in terms of traditional skill and manufacturing infrastructure, gold jewellery was identified as one of the extreme focus items by the Commerce Ministry for accelerated growth. A number of innovative steps have been taken under the Exim Policy to facilitate gold jewellery export which include:

- (i) Liberalisation of import policy of gold allowing a number of banks to supply gold to the exporters which has improved the supply of raw materials considerably;
- (ii) Enhancement of competitiveness of Indian manufacturers by rationalising wastage and value addition norms;
- (iii) Simplification and streamlining of procedures with regard to personal carriage of jewellery, display of samples abroad, export of jewellery with brand names etc.

[Translation]

Package Tours

*557. SHRI ADITYANATH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have announced special packages to attract foreign tourists;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): (a) to (c) Package tours are prepared and sold in overseas markets mainly by tour operators. Ashok Travels & Tours, a Unit of India Tourism Development Corporation and some State Tourism Development Corporations also offer package tours. New places and services are included in the packages from time to time make them more attractive.

Ministry of Tourism through its overseas offices provides information and runs publicity campaigns to position India; as an attractive tourist destination. At this state, it is not possible to estimate foreign exchange earnings from these efforts.

Shortage of Staff in Banks

*558. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is abundant staff in the headquarters, regional and zonal offices of nationalised banks whereas there is a shortage of staff in the branches of the banks in rural areas;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to post sufficient staff in rural areas and the other branches of the banks;

(c) whether the Government propose to consider to make it mandatory for the bank employees to work for a certain period in rural areas so as to avoid shortage of staff there; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 (d) Availability of officers and award staff in Headquarters as well as Regional and Zonal Offices has been reported to be adequate. While there is no report of a general shortage of officers or staff in semi-urban or rural areas, some branches/pockets are reported to experience shortage from time to time. Government has from time to time advised the banks that the branches located in the rural/semi-urban areas should be adequately staffed by implementation of rotational transfers as well as redeployment of manpower from the surplus pockets to deficit pockets. Banks have been advised to make it compulsory for the officers to work for minimum two/three years in the rural/semi-urban areas before they are considered for promotion to Senior Management Grade Scale-IV and above.

[English]

ADB Assistance

*559. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Asian Development Bank has decided to provide funds for policy reform programmes in various States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether from now onwards 50 percent of the ADB assistance is likely to be provided to the States;
- (d) if so, the States which are likely to be benefited by this aid; and
- (e) the total ADB loan/assistance provided during 1997-98 to the State Governments, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Under the present medium term strategy of the Bank, it intends to provide to States about 50 per cent of the total annual lending to India. The actual timing of loan assistance to States will be determined by project readiness and the strength of the reform programme.

(d) The Bank has selected Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh for loan assistance for policy reform programmes.

(e) During 1997-98, ADB has not approved loan for State level Operations.