

1	2
148.	Kusmunda
149.	Laxman
150.	Gevra
151.	Dipka
152.	Dipka (Aug.)
153.	Baroud
154.	Kurasia
155.	Korea
156.	West Chirimiri
MCL:	
157.	Lajkura
158.	Samalwari
159.	Lilari
160.	Belpahar
161.	Lakhanpur
162.	Basundhara (E)
163.	Kalinga
164.	Bharatpur
165.	Balanda
166.	Jagannath
167.	Ananta
168.	Lingraj
169.	Hingula
NEC/CIL:	
170.	Triap
171.	Tilkak

[English]

National Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd.

5593. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is aware of any National Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd. in Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said Bank has the approval of the Reserve Bank of India and the Government;
- (d) if not, the measures taken by the Government to inform the general public about such fraud Bank; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the alleged promoters of the said Bank?

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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had come to know of the existence of the institution styled as 'National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Delhi' (NUCBLD) on the basis of its advertisement inviting applications for appointment of different categories of staff through a placement agency. The directors of 'NUCBLD' were also selling equity shares of Rs. 100/- in the lot of minimum 20 shares. NUCBLD has also made declaration to the effect that their Board of Directors comprises, inter-alia, three directors of RBI and five directors of Delhi Government.

(c) RBI has reported that it has neither issued any licence to the said bank for carrying on banking business, nor the bank has been registered by the Registrar of cooperative Societies, Delhi.

(d) and (e) A press release was issued by RBI on 18th June, 1998 cautioning the public at large not to have any dealings with 'NUCBLD' and the same was published in newspapers with details of the activities of the bank. A case was also registered by RBI with Delhi Police on 25th June, 1998 under Section 420, 468 and 471 of Indian Penal Code and some arrests were also made on the same day. The Police authorities are conducting further investigations.

Funds for Housing

5594. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Housing Finance Industry is facing numerous problems that are adversely affecting its performance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the lending rates are also witnessing a downward trend;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to help the financial institutions to provide more funds for housing in future?

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) National Housing Bank (NHB) has reported that housing sector is facing such problems as capital deficiency, institutional funds not sufficiently matching the tenor and maturity profile of long term housing finance, uncertainty in the housing market resulting in locking up of funds, non-availability of concessional funds and absence of effective and speedy foreclosure mechanism.

(c) and (d) After the announcement of the monetary and credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the 1st half of 1998-99 on April 29, 1998 Prime Lending Rates (PLRs) of scheduled commercial banks have declined responding to various policy measures introduced by the RBI and mainly to the changes made in the bank rate from 12 per cent before April, 1997 to 9 percent on April, 29, 1998.

(e) The existing prescriptions of RBI for flow of credit for housing are as under:

- (i) all housing loans upto Rs. 5 lacs are included under the priority sector advances;
- (ii) the target of advances under economically weaker sections including for housing is prescribed at 10 per cent.
- (iii) requirement that banks allocate a minimum 1.5 per cent of the incremental deposits of the previous year for housing sector.

NHB has recently formulated the Swarana Jayanti Housing Finance Scheme under which a target of financing one lakh houses in rural areas during 1998-99 has been adopted.

Cotton Technology Mission

5595. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Textile Ministry has decided to contribute 25% of the total outlay for the proposed Cotton Technology Mission that seeks to improve cotton output productivity;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry's role comes in preventing cotton contamination;

(c) the total amount provided by the Ministry in this regard; and

(d) the main tasks that will be made to set up cotton technology body?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) The Government in the Ministry of Agriculture proposes to set up a Technology Mission on Cotton Development to address problems related to production and productivity of cotton, as well as issues pertaining to marketing and ginning & pressing of cotton, in a coordinated and focussed manner in the cotton growing States. It is, inter alia, proposed to facilitate modernisation of cotton ginning and pressing factories with a view to preventing contamination of cotton. Details of the Mission are being worked out.

Subsidy to Cultivators and

Exporters of Fruits and Vegetables

5596. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL :

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of subsidy provided by the APEDA to the cultivators and exporters of fruits and vegetables during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the subsidy provided to them have ever been investigated in the actual operation in the field;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the proper utilisation of the subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) The total amount of financial assistance provided by APEDA to the growers and exporters of fruits and vegetables in the country under various schemes of APEDA during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Amount of assistance (Rs. Lakhs)
1995-96	592.62
1996-97	1008.36
1997-98	2068.07

The details of subsidy paid state-wise are not maintained. APEDA's financial assistance schemes are reimbursement schemes. APEDA verifies the eligibility of beneficiaries, ascertains the claim of expenditure incurred by beneficiaries through its field officers and then sanctions assistance under the appropriate scheme at the prescribed scale. The above procedure ensures that the assistance provided to the growers and exporters are properly utilised.

EXIM Policy

5597. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made assessment of the impact of New Export and Import Policy recently announced by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the various components of New EXIM Policy in the context of post-Pokharan developments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether European Union countries have planned to impose restrictions on imports/exports from India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) The Export Promotion Councils and apex chambers of Commerce and Industry have generally welcomed the recently announced changes in the EXIM Policy like lowering of the threshold limit for zero duty EPCG Scheme for certain sectors, inclusion of Special customs duty