

Working Group have been sent to the Tea Board for their views.

Lending Policies of Foreign Banks

5888. SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued any directives to the foreign banks operating in the country to re-orient their lending policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these directives have been implemented by the foreign banks; and

(d) the action taken against those foreign banks, if any, for not following the directives of the RBI?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had advised all foreign banks operating in India to take their priority sector lending to a level of 10% of their net advances by the end of March, 1989 and to progressively increase the same to 12% and 15% by the end of March, 1990 and March, 1992, respectively. RBI has further reported that 7 of the 21 foreign Banks have achieved the target of 10% stipulated for the end of March, 1989. RBI is constantly following up the matter with those foreign banks which have not complied with the stipulated target.

Number of News Papers and Periodicals Published from Kerala

5889. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of newspapers and periodicals published from Kerala as on 31st December, 1989;

(b) the names of newspapers and periodicals in Kerala which were granted registration during 1989; and

(c) the number of applications for registration of newspapers and publications proposed to be published from Kerala and pending before the Registrar of Newspapers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) There are 165 daily newspapers and 1260 periodicals from Kerala in the Live Register of Registrar of Newspapers for India as on 31st December, 1989.

(b) The list of the newspapers and periodicals is given in the attached statement.

(c) 70 applications for registration of newspapers and 180 applications for clearance of titles of new publications proposed to be published from Kerala are pending as on 12.4.1990.