

lending to small and marginal farmers, landless cultivators and artisans would be accelerated to achieve a prescribed target. In this connection, it may be stated that banks have been asked to raise the proportion of their credit to priority sector to 40% of their net bank credit; 18% of the total credit in respect of direct finance extended to agriculture (including allied activities) by March, 1990; and the advance to weaker section, which includes small and marginal farmers and landless cultivators and artisans, are to reach a level of 10% of total credit or 25% of the priority sector advances. Against the above targets, public sector banks as a whole have extended 44.3% of their total advances to priority sector as at the end of December, 1989. With regard to direct finance to agriculture, these banks have extended 16.6% of their total advances as at the end of December, 1989. So far as advances to weaker sections are concerned, these banks have extended 10.8% of their total advances and 24.5% of their total priority sector advances to weaker sections by the end of December, 1989.

Steel Stockyard at Mangalore

*715. SHRI H C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated demand in and around Mangalore area for Steel at present;

(b) whether there is a proposal to establish a Steel stockyard at Mangalore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Total

demand in and around Mangalore area has not been estimated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to SAIL, the present level of supplies in and around Mangalore does not justify the opening of SAIL's Stockyard at Mangalore.

Weak Reception of Radio Station Berhampore, West Bengal

*716. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the programmes broadcast by newly established radio station at Berhampore, West Bengal are not audible as these are not picked by radio;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Since programmes from new radio station at Berhampore (Mushidabad), West Bengal, are on Frequency Modulation (FM) band operating on 102.2 MHz (2.935 M), these cannot be received by Amplitude Modulation (AM) receivers. A good reception is expected upto 60 Kms. all around it on receivers having FM Band.

(b) This is because of difference in modulation/Transmission technique.

(c) Receivers suitable for both AM/FM reception are available in the market. Due publicity through electronic media is being made to inform the public to use receivers having FM band for tuning FM Stations.