

(a) the number of TV serials/documentaries pending with his Ministry for approval with the reasons for pendency;

(b) out of these the names of the serials/documentaries cleared for telecast during next six months;

(c) the names of serials/documentaries rejected during last one year; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to approve the pending serials/documentaries at the earliest'

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d) The proposals for telecast of TV serials and documentaries are received at different Doordarshan Kendras on a continuing basis and no centralised list of such proposals received is therefore, maintained.

[English]

Liberalisation of Imports

1499. SHRI R. PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise imports;

(b) if so, the effect of such liberalisation on the balance of payment situation;

(c) whether the foreign countries have assured Government to give more loans and aids to enable the liberalised imports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The Government policy on imports is governed by the three year import-export policy, April 1990 to March 1993, which may be modified

from time to time in the light of various factors including the balance of payments situation.

(c) and (d) Loans and grants made by foreign countries to India are not directly linked to the import policy.

Letters in Hindi by Banks

1500. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of letters written in Hindi from May 1, 1990 to May 31, 1990 in Head-Offices of the Central Bank of India, the Canara Bank and the Vijaya Bank separately?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): Central Bank of India, Canara Bank and Vijaya Bank have reported that during the period from 1st May, 1990 to 31st May, 1990 their Head-Offices have written 6530, 7607 and 4322 letters respectively in Hindi.

Seafood Exports from Orissa

1501. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHDURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had convened a meeting of the leading seafood exporters of the country on 24 April, 1990;

(b) if so, the problems raised by them to increase the export of seafood and specific problems raised by the seafood exporters of Orissa; and

(c) the action so far taken/proposed to be taken to solve their difficulties to improve the seafood exports from Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) A meeting of the leading seafood exporters had been convened at New Delhi by the Marine Products Export Development

Authority (MPEDA) on 24th April, 1990.

(b) and (c) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(b) A number of problems had been raised by the exporters including exporters from Orissa. These include:—

- (i) Evolvement of suitable land allotment policy by the State Governments;
- (ii) Provision of adequate reefer sailing facilities at Paradip Port,
- (iii) Supply of adequate prawn seeds to farmers in West Bengal, Orissa etc. in peak production period, and
- (iv) Inclusion of representatives of Orissa exporters in the MPEDA Board,
- (v) Increase in the Replenishment (REP) percentage for marine products exports from 5% as shown in the Import-Export Policy.

(c) Action taken by the Government to solve these problems are:—

- (i) The Chief Ministers of coastal State Governments were requested to expedite evolvement of suitable land allotment policy for prawn farming activity.
- (ii) The case for providing reefer sailing facilities at Paradip was taken up with the Shipping Corporation of India, which did not find it economically viable to provide the same due to inadequate quantum of marine products being exported from Orissa.
- (iii) MPEDA has already taken action to synchronise the production in the Orissa Prawn Hatchery with the actual demand of the farmers.

(iv) The Board of MPEDA had already been reconstituted from November 1989 for a period of 3 years.

(v) Necessary Public Notice had been issued for increasing the REP percentage from 5% to 15% of FOB value of exports.

[Translation]

Loans advanced by Nationalised Banks to Farmers, Artisans and Agricultural Labourers

1502. SHRI CHHITUBHAI DEVJIBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have directed nationalised banks to grant special loans to farmers, rural artisans and agricultural labourers;

(b) if so, the percentage of total loan to be granted under the above category;

(c) the year-wise details of loans granted by the State Bank of India, the Bank of Baroda, the Dena Bank and the Bank of India from 1987 to June, 1990 in Surat district of Gujarat to farmers, artisans and agricultural labourers;

(d) whether the nationalised banks in Surat district were able to achieve the targets assigned to them in regard to loans advanced to above categories if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government will issue any special directive to these banks to fulfil these targets; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) 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,