

Writing off Loans of Weavers

5023. SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS TARWALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether weavers have been included in the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990;

(b) whether any differentiation has been made between the weavers in rural and urban areas in the above scheme;

(c) whether the weavers residing in urban areas will get the benefit of debt waiver;

(d) whether the owners of powerlooms have been included in this category; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b), (c), (d) and (e) The subject of extending debt relief to weavers in non-rural areas has been considered by the Government of India and it has been decided to include them, both powerloom and handloom weavers, within the framework of the present scheme.

[English]

National Network Programmes Sponsored by Private Parties

5024. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether several programme on National Television network are currently sponsored by private agencies;

(b) if so, the number of such agencies and number of programmes tele-

cast by them between January to June 1990;

(c) the number of these relate to news and views and entertainment areas separately; and

(d) the mechanism set up by Government to evaluate performance of these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the period from January to June, 1990, 278 sponsored programmes offered by 575 sponsors/clients were telecast by Doordarshan on the national network, out of which 19 related to news and views and 259 to entertainment.

(d) Doordarshan telecasts programmes including those which are 'Sponsored' only after being fully satisfied about their suitability through a rigorous system of scrutiny and selection.

Plywood Boxes

5025. SHRI SHIKIHO SEMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to replace "Plywood Boxes" by "Steel Boxes";

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would result in closing down of a number of S.S.I. Units; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) DGS&D procures stores as per the specification given by the Indentor. There is no such proposal.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

**Press Release to Bangalore
Doordarshan**

5026. SHRI JOSS FERNANDEZ: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether organisations and VIPs are finding it difficult to send their press releases to Bangalore Doordarshan which is situated a good distance away from Bangalore city proper; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to install a press release box for facilitating people to send press releases at AIR, Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) (a) and (b) Bangalore Doordarshan Kendra is located within the city limits and it should not, therefore, be difficult for any organisation to send its press releases to the Kendra.

**Writing off Agricultural Loans of
Wilful Defaulters**

5027. SHRI A. N. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State Government has decided to write off all agricultural loans in respect of cooperative banks irrespective of wilful defaults as defined by Union Government, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether such waiver shall apply to commercial banks' loans?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Government of India have formulated the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 for providing debt relief to farmers, landless cultivators, artisans and weavers upto Rs. 10,000/- by Public Sector Banks and Regional Rural Banks. The benefit of debt

relief will be available to the following category of borrowers:—

- (i) Non-wilful defaulter farmer by the Annewari system applied on the village basis. The farmer who has defaulted in payment of his loan for two or more bad crop years on the basis of the Annewari system will be treated as non-wilful defaulters, eligible for debt relief.
- (ii) Defaulter farmer, artisan and weaver with chronic overdues i.e. overdues which remained unpaid for more than three years at the cut off date i.e. 2-10-1989. The concept of Annewari does not apply in this category.
- (iii) The surviving family of a deceased borrower on whom the loan liability has devolved on or before 2-10-1989.
- (iv) The farmer who had filed insolvency petitions or who has already been declared insolvent on or before 2-10-1989.

Relief will cover all villages on short-term and term loans advanced by Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperatives including Land Development Banks as on 2-10-1989. In so far as the banks in co-operative sector are concerned, State Governments have been requested to frame a scheme on the similar pattern. As per reports received, most of the State Governments have accepted in principle the Central Government Scheme for adopting it in respect of cooperatives.

Kannada Films over TV

5028. SHRI D. K. NAIKAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that films in all major regional languages are frequently shown on TV but not Kannada films; and