

The main objective of the establishment of RRBs was to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in rural areas and also make available institutional credit to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers etc. in these areas. There are 196 RRBs having a network of 14247 branches covering 369 districts in the country. The total deposits of RRBs have increased from Rs. 1285.82 crores in 161.24 lakh deposit accounts, as on the 31st December, 1985 to Rs. 3643.55 crores in 283.50 lakh deposit accounts, as on 31st December, 1989 registering an increase of 76% in deposits accounts and 183% increase in deposit amount. Similarly, the number of target group borrowers and the amount has increased from 70.12 lakh to 112.25 lakh and Rs. 1407.67 crores to Rs. 3154.93 crores respectively during the same period registering an increase of 60% in accounts and 124% in amount which has notably helped in improving the rural economy of the country. However, every effort is being made to further improve the efficiency of RRBs so that they are in a position to shoulder increasing responsibility towards strengthening the rural economy.

[English]

**Incentives to NRIs**

\*331. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals for the simplification of investment and tax-laws and officers of attractive incentives for encouraging Non-resident Indians (NRIs) investment in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the proposals and offers and by what time these will be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b) With a view to improving the investment climate in India for NRIs Government keep their policy constantly under review. Proposals received from time to time are given due consideration by the Government. A Consultative Committee in the Department of Economic Affairs looks into policy and procedural aspects of NRI Investment. There is also a Special Approval Committee in the Department of Industrial Development which provides single window clearance to NRI entrepreneurs.

**MMIC Proposal to make Singhbhum District in Bihar a Major Export Centre**

\*332. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India propose to make Singhbhum district in Bihar a major export centre for some minerals;

(b) if so, whether any survey and estimates of availability of minerals including iron ore, etc. have been undertaken in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Financial Difficulties Faced by Oil and Natural Gas Commission and Financial Institutions**

\*333. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and public sector