

Implementation of Loan Waiver Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

*341. **SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received information about any of the State Governments pressurising the co-operative banks to provide depositors' money to implement the loan waiver scheme to the farmers;

(b) if so, the names of such states and whether the act of these State Governments was found against the directives of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(c) the reaction of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that no instance has been brought to their notice where any State Government is pressurising co-operative banks to utilise depositors' money for implementing debt relief scheme. In terms of Government of India decision, the Central Government would meet the full cost of write off in respect of public sector banks and regional rural banks. In case of co-operative banks, 50% of the cost shall be borne by the Government of India. The remaining 50% would be met by the State Governments, and to meet their share, State Co-operative Banks and State Land Development Banks can avail concessional loans from NABARD. Pending the determination of the debt relief in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme and in order to improve the liquidity of the banks, NABARD would be providing a part of the Government of India's share by way of an advance.

Foreign Exchange Earned from Foreign Tourists

*342. **SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned through foreign tourists during the last two years, year-wise; and

(b) the schemes being implemented to improve tourist facilities and develop new tourists spots in the country to attract more tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) The foreign exchange earnings from tourism during 1988-89 and 1989-90 are provisionally estimated to be Rs. 2103 crores and Rs. 2456 crores respectively.

(b) Development of tourist spots and improvement of tourist facilities in such centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. The efforts of the Central Government in this regard include provision of incentives for attracting private investment and extending financial assistance to State Governments for specific projects. Further as many as eighteen new travel circuits have been identified by the Government for promotion and development.

Customs duty exemption for imports by Aparna Ashram

*343. **SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY:**

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Aparna Ashram in Jammu was given Customs duty exemption for importing a Telemetric Polygraph System from Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of importing the Telemetric Polygraph System, the Ashram authorities imported other equipments; and

(d) if so, the action Government have taken for misuse and infringement of Customs duty exemption?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d) No special or *ad hoc* exemption from the levy of Customs duty has been given by the Department of Revenue in favour of Aparna Ashram in Jammu for the import of Telemetric Polygraph System from Japan. It is alleged in a Weekly publication that in 1983 the Aparna Ashram requested the Director General Health Services to grant Customs duty exemption for equipments for "recording research data, experiments and yogic practices". Enquiries are in progress to ascertain the facts.

[*Translation*]

Separation of some Minerals from Minor Category

*344. SHRI GIRIDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether marble, granite, sandstone and other dimensional stones come in the category of minor minerals under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to separate these minerals from minor category;

(c) if so, the details with reasons thereof and its effect on the Government's policy of decentralisation;

(d) whether Government of Rajasthan has sent any protest letter in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such decision has been taken though certain suggestions have been made in this behalf.

(c) In view of the growing economic importance and tremendous export potential of such minerals certain changes in the statute may be necessary for promoting scientific and systematic development of those minerals with due regard to environmental and ecological considerations. Such steps will not affect the policy of decentralisation, as even after any amendments are made the power of granting leases will remain with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations.

(d) and (e) On the proposal for exclusion of certain minerals from the category of minor minerals views of all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations have been called for. Government of Rajasthan have disagreed with the proposal and a reference to that effect has also been received from the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. The points raised in this letter are under examination at present.

[*English*]

Reservation for SCs/STs in Indian Overseas Bank

345. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) Whether Government directives relating to reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in services have been properly followed by the Indian Overseas Bank;

(b) Whether there is a huge backlog of vacancies for Scheduled Tribes in direct recruitment/promotions in the Bank; and