

**Charges for Issuing Cheque Books**

\*135. SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have issued guidelines to banks for charging Re.1 per leaf for cheque books issued to their clients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter in view of the hardship to clients?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c). The public sector banks have revised their service charges with effect from 1.7.1990. Under the revised charges, in four metropolitan cities, namely, New Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Calcutta, a charge of Re. 1/- per leaf is levied at the time of issuance of cheque books. This charge however, is not levied on Savings Bank Accounts of individuals.

2. The banks have increased their service charges on account of increase in the cost of their operations. While all efforts have been made to keep charges at a reasonable level, there is no alternative to making adjustments in such charges when the cost of services increases.

[*Translation*]

**Loans Advanced Under  
Self-Employment Scheme**

\*136. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a number of cases the loans advanced under the self-employment scheme during the last two years have not been utilised for the purpose

for which the loan was given;

(b) if so, the number of such cases; and

(c) the effective steps taken by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c). The commercial banks provide loans to identified beneficiaries under various self-employment schemes like Self Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), Self Employment Programmes for Urban Poor (SEPUP) and Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME). The data reporting system in these schemes does not generate the information regarding the number of cases where loans get misutilised. By and large the loans advanced under these schemes are utilised by the beneficiaries for the given purpose. However, some cases of misutilisation of loans do come to the notice of the Banks from time to time and appropriate action is taken by the banks to deal with such cases.

[*English*]

**Trade with Iraq**

\*137. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:  
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with Iraq has been disrupted due to the Gulf crisis;

(b) if so, the details of the major projects and companies affected due to the Gulf crisis; and

(b) the steps Government propose to

take to compensate the affected companies?

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of present situation in the Gulf region six construction, one turn-key and three consultancy projects under execution in Iraq by M/s Jaiprakash Industries Limited, Som Datt Builders Limited, Indian Railway Construction Company Limited, Associated Cement Company Limited, etc., are affected. Export of items like engineering goods, tea, spices and chemicals etc. to Iraq are also affected.

(c) These projects being commercial projects, contracted between the Indian companies and Iraqi clients, any compensation claim that may arise, will have to be settled between the two contracting parties as per terms and conditions of the contracts.

#### **Felling of Timber In A & N Islands by Burmese Poachers**

\*138. **SHRIMANORANJAN BHAKATA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Burmese Poachers are using the valuable Paduk and other timbers in North Andaman for manufacturing boats; and

(b) if so, the preventive measures taken by the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):** (a) and (b). No case against Burmese poachers for use of illegally felled Paduk and other timbers in North Andaman for manufacturing boats has been registered. The following preventive measures for forest protection

have been taken by the Andaman & Nicobar Administration:

- i) Police, Coast Guard and Navy are keeping strict vigil throughout the coast line against intrusion of foreigners.
- ii) Forest officials are assisting police personnel and patrolling has been intensified in the vulnerable areas and creeks with the assistance of Police.
- iii) The inhabitants in the coast areas have also been alerted to inform suspicious movements of any foreign nationals.

[*Translation*]

#### **Writing Off Bank Loans**

\*139. **SHRI CHINTA MOHAN:  
SHRI PHOOL CHAND  
VERMA:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Probe sought into bank loans write-offs" appearing in the Financial Express of 1 December 1990;

(b) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to nationalised banks in regard to writing off loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being contemplated by the Government to ensure progressive rejection in the amount of loans written off every year?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA):** (a) Yes.