

farmers, landless agricultural labourers, artisans and weavers on loans below Rs. 10,000.

(c) and (d). RBI has estimated the share of small and marginal farmers in the outstanding loans of commercial banks and cooperatives in Agriculture Sector at about Rs. 12,000 crores. Government desires to ensure that richer sections of the society and wilful defaulters do not get benefit in the process and further that the credibility of the financial institutions does not get eroded. The modalities of providing debt relief to specified groups are being examined in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

New Note Printing Press at Salboni, West Bengal

*9. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to set up a New Note Printing Press at Salboni in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Government have approved the setting up two New Note Printing Presses, one at Salboni in West Bengal and the other at Mysore in Karnataka. The estimated cost of the two projects is Rs. 844 crores. The presses are designed to print about 5000 million pieces of currency notes per annum, each.

Trade Turnover from IITF

*10. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the main features of the India Inter-

national Trade Fair (IITF) held in Delhi recently;

(b) the volume of trade turnover from the Fair;

(c) whether any new agreements were entered into with other countries for exports and imports during the Fair; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU):

(a) While IITF-89 covered various aspects of industry, agriculture, trade, science & technology etc., the special displays were on:—

(i) Environment—Air, Water, Earth and

(ii) Essential Oils, Fragrances and Flavours.

(b) to (d). It is difficult to quantify the business booked and agreements signed during the fair because business usually results over a period of time after the fair. The principal objectives of the IITF are to facilitate business contacts, project export capabilities, to offer technology options to Indian industry and create greater awareness among the Indian public about developments in different fields.

Decontrol of Newsprint Import

*11. SHRI BANWAR LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a persistent demand for the decontrol of newsprint import;

(b) whether Government propose to decontrol the import of newsprint and if so, when; and

(c) what other assistance Government propose to give to newspaper industry?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The matter is engaging the attention of the Government.

Economic Offences

*12. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of economic offences which were shelved or closed during the last five years; and

(b) whether Government propose to re-open any of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) No case of economic offences has been shelved or closed during the last years. However, in a few cases of Income-Tax offences, prosecutions sanctioned were withdrawn on further indepth examinations of the relevant Direct Tax laws and regulations and the applicability of schemes such as the Amnesty Scheme (1985-87) framed under those regulations.

(b) There is no such proposal at present.

White Paper on Country's Economy

*13. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to lay a White Paper on the state of the economy on the Table of the House; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) A paper on the current economic situation is proposed to be circulated.

(b) In the current session of the Lok Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Foreign Debts

*14. SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign debts and outstanding interest thereon, country-wise;

(b) the extent of loans taken for the payment of interest and when each such loan was taken during the last three years;

(c) whether Government propose to set up a high-level Commission to ascertain whether these foreign loans were properly utilised; and

(d) if so, the time by which such a Commission is to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) A statement if given below.

(b) Payment of interest on loans outstanding are made from our exports and gross invisible earnings. As such no loans were contracted for the payment of interest in the past.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. Government have, however, been following a cautious policy of external borrowings and closely monitoring the utilisation of these loans.