

(b) Though there is a marginal difference between the prices of standard thali meals and standard meals in casseroles, the advantages of casserole service, viz. high degree of hygiene, capacity to retain warmth etc. outweigh the marginal hike in price.

(c) and (d). There have been a few such complaints but opinion polls conducted to ascertain the reaction of the passengers to the casserole service have revealed that an overwhelming majority appreciate this service.

[English]

Unsold Cotton Stock

*24. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of unsold cotton stock lying as on date with the Cotton Corporation of India; and

(b) the steps taken to clear this stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN) : (a) and (b). During the current year, the Cotton Corporation of India has so far purchased 15.36 lakh bales of cotton and had an opening stock of 1.79 lakh bales, totalling 17.15 lakh bales. The Corporation has been able to dispose of 11.89 lakh bales including export of 2.20 lakh bales, leaving a balance of 5.26 lakh bales as on 10.7.86. The Corporation is making efforts to clear this stock by increasing export and improving domestic sales.

Bank Loan Against Gold Ornaments

*30. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that some of the nationalised banks are not giving loan to public against mortgage of gold ornaments ;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to this attitude of the nationalised banks, people are going to private financial institutions who charge a very high percentage of interest ; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to give instructions to all the banks to give loans against mortgage of gold ornaments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). As per existing RBI instructions, the banks can provide loans not exceeding Rs. 5000 against ornaments and jewellery for non-productive purposes. Consumption loans for an amount upto Rs. 1000/- sanctioned against security of gold ornaments, are treated as priority sector advances.

2. The banks have been advised to provide credit primarily for productive purposes and loans upto Rs. 5000 in the agriculture sector are given without any collateral security or third party guarantee. For productive purposes, loans for higher amounts are also made available against the security of gold ornaments at the rate of interest chargeable for that particular purpose.

Development of Paradip Port

*31. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has made some efforts for the development of Paradip Port; and

(b) if so, the specific steps taken by the Corporation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b). In order to increase exports of iron ore from Paradip Port to 6 million tonnes, MMTC had discussed with a South Korean Company the possibility of financing expansion of the port to receive vessels of 170,000 DWT. No final decision on implementing the project has been taken by the Government.

Bank Robberies

*32. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bank robberies in various parts of the country since the beginning of the year 1986 as compared to the corresponding period in 1985 stating the amounts involved State-wise ;

(b) whether in view of the increase in bank robberies, Government have critically reviewed the measures taken so far to strengthen security arrangements in banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the manner in which Government propose to remove the deficiencies, if any, in the existing bank security arrangement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Information regarding bank robberies/dacoities and the amounts involved therein Statewise, as reported by Reserve Bank of India, for the period from 1.1.1986 to

30.6.1986 alongwith comparative figures for the period from 1.1.1985 to 30.6.1985 is given in the statement given below.

(b) and (c). Although banks security is depevent to a considerable extent on the general security environment, the Banks themselves have been taking steps to improve their security arrangements. Security measures implemented by public sector banks are being reviewed from time to time and whenever improvements are considered necessary, requisite guidelines/instructions are given to the Banks. Steps have been taken to appoint Armed Security Guards, instal appropriate alarm systems, etc. in branches depending on the risk factor involved. Monitoring of the implementation of these security measures on a regular basis is also being undertaken. In addition, in order to motivate bank employees, the general public and the police to resist robbers/dacoits, a Scheme of rewards has been announced.

STATEMENT

Figures of bank robberies/dacoities and the amounts involved State-wise as reported by Reserve Bank of India for the period 1.1.86 to 30.6.86 alongwith comparative figures for the period 1.1.85 to 30.6.85

(Amounts in lakhs of rupees)

State/Union Territory	No. of cases		Amount (1.1.86 to 30.6.86)	Amount	
	(1.1.85 to	30.6.85)		(1.1.85 to	30.6.85)
Andhra Pradesh	1	12.75	—	—	
Assam	1	0.28	3	41.88	
Bihar	5	7.83	6	14.58	
Punjab	5	0.97	23	29.31	
Chandigarh	1	0.33	—	—	
Delhi	3	4.64	1	10.16*	
*Amount includes foreign currency valued at Rs. 0.52 lakhs					
Gujarat	—	—	4	7.47	
Himachal Pradesh	1	1.21	—	—	
Haryana	1	2.40	—	—	
Jammu & Kashmir	1	0.32	1	2.30	
Kanataka	2	0.26	—	—	
Madhya Pradesh	2	2.47	1	3.15	
Maharashtra	2	4.18	9	20.93	
Meghalaya	—	—	1	2.81	
Manipur	1	Less than 0.01	1	—	
Nagaland	3	26.77	1	13.00	
Rajasthan	1	—	—	—	
Uttar Pradesh	6	18.76	3	3.18	
West Bengal	—	—	1	1.08	

Figures do not include value of jewellery and gold.
(Data Provisional)