

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Out of the total credit by the banks, forty per cent is reserved for loans to priority sectors including those covered under the 20-Point Programme. And in this programme, agriculture gets the highest priority. I will give you the figures of the investment made in the agricultural sector by the nationalised banks. In the year 1976, that is the year ending June, 1976, Rs. 726 crores were given directly and Rs. 277 crores indirectly. In the next year 1977, Rs. 950 crores were given directly and Rs. 324 crores indirectly. In 1978, Rs. 1234 crores were given directly and Rs. 424 crores indirectly. In the year 1979, Rs. 1686 crores were given directly and Rs. 557 crores indirectly. This only refers to nationalised banks. Apart from this, there is the cooperative credit to the tune of Rs. 1440 crores. Besides this, there is also credit available from the non-nationalised banks.

Loans to Agriculturists for productive purposes

*249. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have been directed not to insist on any guarantee for sanctioning loans upto Rs. 4,500 to the agriculturists for productive purposes; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank has advised all scheduled commercial banks, which include the nationalised banks, to adopt certain security norms according to which third party guarantees are not required for loans upto Rs. 5,000 for agriculture and allied activities. Such loans are given against hypothecation of crops or of moveable assets where such assets are created out of the loan amount. A further concession is given in the case of smaller loans upto Rs. 1,000; in such cases a demand promissory note or a

loan agreement is treated as sufficient security.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: In his answer, the hon. Minister has stated that the Reserve Bank of India has only advised the commercial banks, including the nationalised banks, in this country to advance loans upto Rs. 5,000 without any third party guarantee. First of all, I must thank the Government for taking this decision. But will the Government, instead of advising on this important matter to the banks, give directions to them to implement this policy?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The advice of the Government to the Reserve Bank is always accepted. There is no need to give any directive. Directives are given when the advice is not accepted or followed.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: In respect of these loans which are to be given to the agriculturists without third party guarantee or assurance, will Government treat them under the DRI schemes and as interest-free loans? Secondly, the top-level management in the nationalised banks are not having any faith in the implementation of this 20-Point Programme. In the case of persons appointed at the political level by the previous Government, will this Government come forward and change them; and will this scheme of loans of Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 1,000 be treated under the DRI scheme?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: It is a hypothetical question. If the bank managers or the chief executives do not carry out the advice of the Government, then the Reserve Bank will certainly take appropriate action to enforce it.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: The hon. Minister in his reply to the previous question has accepted that the top-level management appointed by the previous Government, have not implemented the 20-point programme. How will the same management im-

plement that programme now? The Minister himself said that the previous Government had not implemented the 20-point programme.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I will answer that question. After all, Government servants follow Government's directives; and the Reserve Bank follows the directives of the Government. And the banks also follow the directives of the Reserve Bank. If the Government has changed its policy, and it has a more liberal policy towards these people, that policy will naturally be implemented. Just because it was not implemented in the past, you cannot assume that it will not be implemented even after we have given the necessary instructions.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD: It is heartening to hear from the hon. Minister that appropriate action will be taken against defaulting people. Is it in the knowledge of the Minister that there is a powerful movement in the banking sector, to compel people to hand down 2% to 5% first on the table to the staff, and then only take the loan? If so, can the Minister assure us that he will take some action to bring to book those persons who do not give loans to agricultural and weaker sections, and cover up the entire thing in procedural intricacies?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: If the general question is that there is corruption at the lower levels, we will try to put it down. cannot say that there is no corruption at all. But we will try to put down the corruption.

श्री विनास मुत्तमवार: क्या मंत्र महोदय यह बतायेंगे कि 20 सूत्री कार्यक्रम में खाद्य-उद्योग क्षेत्रों में ऋण देने और लेने का क्या पलिसी है? (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Boosting of Export of Engineering Goods

*250. **DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH:** Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES** be pleased to

state:

(a) whether any urgent steps are being taken for boosting up the export of engineering goods; and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the more significant measures are: holding of trade fairs and exhibitions, helping exporters in securing necessary inputs for production of goods and assisting them in overcoming transportation and shipping difficulties.

Fixing of target plan to produce Steel Ingots in Public Sector

*251. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of **STEEL AND MINES** be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target plan to produce steel ingots in the public sector has been prepared by Government for 1980;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take for substantial increase in supplies of power and coal during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following table gives the production targets fixed by SAIL, in terms of steel ingots, for the five integrated steel plants in the public sector, as compared to the anticipated production in 1979-80.

Plant	('000 tonnes)	
	Target, 1980-81	Production 1979-80@
Bhilai	2200	2123
Durgapur	1070	892
Rourkela	1460	1271
Bokaro	1820	1424
TISCO	670	580
	7220	6290

@(Based on the actuals of April, 1979—February, 1980 and estimates of March, 1980).