

in their way of taking decisions in those cases; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** I am surprised that the Central Government, which is in charge of the banking system in this country, has not got this information. Between April 1979 and February 1980 fifteen District Industries Centres of the Government of West Bengal had sent proposals for sanctioning loans to 6122 units involving a total sum of a little over Rs. 50 crores and these proposals were kept pending for nearly nine to ten months and, in some cases, even more than that. Would not the Minister agree that if these proposals forwarded by the DICs are kept pending for months together and not disposed of, the whole object of financial assistance given to the small scale sector is very seriously restricted? Therefore, would not the Minister take note of it and make enquiries to find out what are the reasons and solutions therefor?

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN:** Mr. Speaker, I have figures up to September 1979. We have collected some figures and the best that I could get in the short period is up to September. The total number of applications received in March, June and September by the Union Bank of India was 6,973, those sanctioned were 6,597 and those rejected were 140. With regard to the United Commercial Bank which is the other lead bank, the applications received were 1,724, those sanctioned were 1,638 and those rejected were 105. It is quite possible that after this period there may have been some delay. I noticed that the banking services in West Bengal have not been adequate and, for that purpose, I held a meeting of the Regional Banks in

Calcutta and invited the West Bengal Government, the Reserve Bank and the lead Banks of that area and pointed out to them the urgency of improving the banking services in that area. We have constituted a Committee consisting of the Reserve Bank, the State Government and the lead banks and we are looking into it. If my hon. friend will give me information about the areas which have not been attended to, I will take it up immediately and do the needful.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** I appreciate what the Minister has said, but he may kindly see that the Committee puts a time limit.

**SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN:** I will try.

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Production of Vanaspati

\*284. **SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:**  
**SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA:**

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of vanaspati has declined;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and what remedial measures are being taken or are proposed to be taken not only to arrest the decline in the production but also to increase production of this essential item in the coming months;

(c) what has been the production of vanaspati during each quarter from 1976 onwards against the rated capacity of the mills; and

(d) the quantity of edible oils, sunflower oil and soyabean oil, imported each year during the last four years (upto April, 1980) and also the quantity likely to be imported during 1980 and how much quantity has been given to the vanaspati manufacturers each year?

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI V. C. SHUKLA):** (a) There has been some shortfall in production of vanaspati during the financial year 1979-80 as compared to the production during 1978-79.

(b) The main reasons for decline in production were severe power-cuts imposed by several vanaspati-producing States, and constraints in the coal and diesel supplies. The other contributory factors were occasional disruption in the supply of imported oils and shortage of inputs like tinplates, chemicals etc.

The Government has taken the following steps to arrest the decline and increase the production of vanaspati:—

(i) The percentage usage of imported oil in the manufacture of vanaspati is being maintained at 95 per cent so as to tide over the problem of availability of indigenous oils to the industry.

(ii) Regular imports of raw oils by the State Trading Corporation of India (STC) and timely and prompt allocations of impored oil for delivery by STC are ensured.

(iii) STC has been advised to move regularly, sufficient quantities of imported oil from the port towns to its up-country depots by rail for supply to vanaspati industry, so as to get over the difficulties in road movement.

(iv) State Governments have been requested to keep the production of

essential commodities like vanaspati and refined oils out of the purview of power-cut to the maximum possible extent.

(v) Regarding the supply of coal, the matter has been taken up with the Railway Board and the Department of Coal. Vanaspati industry is being allowed to move coal by road to get over the difficulty in the availability of rail wagons.

(vi) The matter regarding the availability of tinplates has been taken up with the Department of Steel for arranging smooth supplies to the vanaspati industry.

(vii) The problems of vanaspati industry are periodically discussed and appropriate measures devised through Weekly Coordination Committee meetings, in which the representatives of vanaspati industry, STC and the Railway Board, among others, are also associated.

(viii) Periodical zonal meetings are being held with the vanaspati manufacturers to sort out the local problems faced by them and to impress upon them the necessity of increasing the vanaspati production during the coming lean and festival season. As a result, the vanaspati production has gone up in the last two months.

(c) Against the effective rated capacity of 8.23 lakh MT annually, the production of vanaspati during each quarter from 1976 onwards is as under:—

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980 (M.T.)
					(MT)
Jan.—March	1,60,619	1,55,982	1,48,243	1,69,618	1,50,035
April—June	1,28,755	1,55,503	1,61,526	1,56,503	1,19,286*
July—Sept.	1,13,701	1,34,667	1,69,512	1,54,624	—
Oct.—Dec.	1,42,087	1,33,348	1,77,988	1,56,863	—

\*This indicates production only for the months of April and May, 1980.

(d) The total imports of edible oils by STC, which supplies imported oils for vanaspati manufacture, have been

as under during the last four financial years:—

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
(in tonnes)	4,05,001	5,67,752	5,70,590	10,39,257

Out of these, the imports by the STC of Soyabean oil have been as under:—

STC has not imported any Sunflower oil during these years.

	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	1979-80
(in tonnes)	2,67,853	3,83,570	4,37,408	5,01,546

During April, 1980, a total quantity of 1,43,940 MT of oil including 53,379 MT of soyabean oil were imported by the State Trading Corporation of India. The aggregate quantities of oil likely to be imported during 1980 would depend upon the gap between demand and indigenous supply, international prices, availability of foreign exchange and other related factors.

The deliveries made by the State Trading Corporation to the vanaspati industry during the last four years are as under:—

Year	Deliveries (MT)
1976-77	2,58,795
1977-78	4,90,200
1978-79	4,93,920
1979-80	4,74,130

#### Supply of paper and other scarce items to Nepal

\*293. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is supplying some items including paper to Nepal;

(b) whether there is a short supply of these items in India; and

(c) if so, the reasons for supplying these items to Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) In terms of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, goods which are prohibited or restricted for export, may be authorised for export by either country when needed by the other, subject to an annual quota and with due regard to supply availability. Under this provision some items, including paper, have been supplied by India to Nepal.

#### गेहूँ और चावल का निर्यात

\*295. श्री छोटू भाई गामित: क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि:—

(क) क्या भारत कुछ देशों को गेहूँ और चावल का निर्यात करता है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उन देशों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ग) गत तीन वर्षों में प्रत्येक देश को कितनी मात्रा में गेहूँ और चावल का निर्यात किया गया;

(घ) उससे कितनी विदेशी मुद्रा अर्जित हुई; और

(ङ) विदेशों को किन किस्मों के गेहूँ और चावल का निर्यात किया गया?