

ernment employees are not being adjusted even on collateral evidence; and

(d) if so, how far it will be possible for the Pay and Accounts Officers to reconcile the faulty accounts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) After the departmentalisation of accounts which has been implemented in phases from 1-4-1976, there has been a significant improvement in the state of Provident Fund accounts which were transferred to the departmentalised accounts offices in incomplete and unsatisfactory state. This has been possible as a result of vigorous efforts made by the Controllers of Accounts. Presumably reference to Accountants General in the Question is intended to mean Controllers of Accounts in various Ministries/Departments of the Government. The accounts are now almost current and annual statements of accounts for the year 1978-79 have been issued to the subscribers in nearly all the cases.

(b) Since the payment and accounting functions are integrated after departmentalisation, there is no difficulty in proper maintenance of Provident Fund accounts.

(c) Where satisfactory collateral evidence was produced, there has been no difficulty in adjustment of missing credits. In certain cases, however, enquiries have to be made from the Drawing & Disbursing Officers before adjustment. In order to facilitate expeditious adjustment of missing credits, the Pay & Accounts Officers in the Ministries/Departments have been delegated extensive powers to adjust them on the basis of collateral evidence; the Controllers of Accounts have also been delegated powers to make adjustment on the basis of affidavits, wherever collateral evidence is not forthcoming. As a result, a substantial number of missing credits already stand adjusted.

(d) Reconciliation of accounts is a continuing process and the Pay and

Accounts Officers would be able to complete all the accounts on availability of satisfactory collateral evidence.

Export of Jaggery

*78. SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether jaggery is being exported to other countries; and

(b) if so, to which countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Jaggery is being exported mainly to the Gulf Countries, USA, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Nepal, Somalia and U.K.

Setting up of National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development

*79. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to set up a National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development;

(b) whether any Reserve Bank Committee was also set up to review arrangements for institutional credit for agricultural and rural development; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the recommendations by this committee in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. On March 30, 1979 the Reserve Bank of India set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman to undertake a review of the institutional arrangements for rural credit to bring about the necessary improvements. The Committee submitted an