

(a) whether a piece of land has been acquired at Osmanabad (Maharashtra) for the construction of Akashvani Bhavan;

(b) if so, when the construction work is likely to start; and

(c) the time by which it will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The State Authorities have allowed advance possession of land on 18.1.90 for establishing a local radio station at Osmanabad.

(b) The construction work for Local Radio Station at Osmanabad is expected to start by March/April, 1990.

(c) The proposed radio station at Osmanabad is expected to be completed and start functioning during 1991.

Production and Export of Tea

812. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Target as per Seventh Plan document</i> | <i>Production</i> | <i>% Decline</i> |
|-------------|--|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>4</i> |
| 1987-88 | 702 | 678 | 3.42 |
| 1988-89 | 734 | 683 | 6.95 |

There has been some shortfall in tea production during 1989 on account of adverse weather conditions in some of the tea growing areas. However, this is unlikely to affect the level of domestic consumption or export of tea.

(c) No, Sir.

Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage fall in the production of tea in the country in the recent past as against the target alongwith the areas where tea production has declined;

(b) the extent to which the domestic consumption and export of tea is likely to be affected and the percentage by which the foreign exchange earnings are likely to fall as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to import tea in order to meet the domestic demand and export obligations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the likely impact on the domestic prices of tea as a result thereof?

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

(a) and (b). The percentage fall in the production of tea in the country in the recent past is as under:—

(d) Does not arise.

Constant decline in the value of Indian Rupee

813. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE:

SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is constant decline in the value of Indian rupee;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). As the value of rupee is calculated as the reciprocal of the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (1982=100), it varies inversely to the level of index as may be seen in the table below:

| <i>Month/Year</i> | <i>Value of Rupees (in paise)</i> |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>2</i> |
| 1988 | |
| October | 59.9 |
| November | 59.5 |
| December | 69.2 (increase) |
| 1989 | |
| January | 60.6 (increase) |
| February | 60.6 |
| March | 60.2 |
| April | 59.9 |
| May | 59.2 |
| June | 58.8 |
| July | 58.1 |
| August | 57.5 |
| September | 56.8 |
| October | 56.8 |
| November | 56.8 |

| 1 | 2 |
|----------|--------------------|
| December | 57.1 (increase) |
| 1990 | |
| January | 57.5 (increase) |

Note: The revised series of CPI with 1982 base was introduced from October 1988. The latest CPI is available for January, 1990.

In the long run, however, with the increase in CPI, the value of the rupee has tended to show a similar decline.

(c) The Government has adopted a package of measures to keep prices under check. These include maintaining supplies of essential commodities through public distribution system, augmenting domestic supplies through imports as feasible, exercising strict fiscal and monetary discipline and action against hoarders and black marketeers.

Programmes of Banking Industry for Poverty Alleviation, Employment Generation and Housing Finance

814. SHRI PRATAPRAOB. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banking industry proposes to undertake some programmes on poverty alleviation, employment generation and housing finance etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) and (b). Banks provide credit support to the beneficiaries identified under various programmes of the

Government aimed at poverty alleviation and employment generation, like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Self-Employment for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP). The banks also have their scheme of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) to cater to the credit requirements of the weaker among the weak and assist them in their efforts to better their economic status by small productive endeavours. The banks lend to the eligible borrowers at 4 percent rate of interest. Their advances under the scheme are required to reach the level of one percent of their aggregate advances as at the end of the previous year. The total amount advanced by public sector banks under DRI as at the end of September, 1989 was Rs. 661 crores.

Booklet to Educate the Tax-Payers

815. SHRI PRATAPRAOB. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring out a booklet to explain the tax-payers about complex provisions of tax laws in a layman's language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the booklet is proposed to