

[English]

Losses in Nationalised Banks

*124. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report on the working of the nationalised banks incurring losses is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) whether the report has specifically identified the reasons of losses;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No report on the working of nationalised banks incurring losses is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) to (d). Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Starvation Deaths of Handloom Weavers

*125. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI SOBHANAD-REESWARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of starvation deaths have been reported among the handloom weavers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of such deaths reported during the last three years; State-wise;

(c) the reasons for such starvation deaths among the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) whether the Union Government have given any financial assistance to the families of the deceased;

(e) if so, how much; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The State Government to Andhra Pradesh has reported a figure of 76 deaths in past few months but have attributed it to prolonged illness and old age.

(b) Government of Andhra Pradesh had also earlier reported 33 deaths from November 1988 to February 1989 but had attributed these also to illness, old age, suicide and accidents. No other State has reported deaths specifically of weavers.

(c) Government of Andhra Pradesh got each of the reported starvation deaths enquired and reported that the deaths (including suicides) are not actually starvation deaths but are due to various other reasons like old age, prolonged illness, addiction to alcohol, accident, family problems, unsound mind, etc.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The grant of financial assistance is provided for in cases of people affected by natural calamities, riots, etc. There is no provision for any other kind of eventuality under the present scheme financial assistance is provided by State Governments only in cases where deaths are directly due to communal riots, accidents and natural calamities. However, both the Central and

the State Governments have taken a number of steps to help the weavers in the three affected districts of Andhra Pradesh viz., Krishna, Prakasam and Guntur. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has agreed to provide production oriented consumption loan through Bank to the affected weavers at Rs. 1000/- per family repayable in 20 monthly instalments with a moratorium of 4 months at 11.5% interest per annum. The State Government also proposes to organise a relief of Rs. 5000/- per family to the surviving members of weavers through local organisations. Sufficient amounts have been released by the Central Government for providing sustained employment to affected weavers under the janata production programme, even though an overall cut in janata production programme has been imposed throughout the country. Arrangements for improved yarn supply at pre-budget prices have been tied up through State agencies and National Handloom Development Corporation.

Legal Aid Scheme for the Poor

*126. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have assessed the working of legal aid scheme for the poor;

(b) if so, the shortcomings noted in the working of the scheme; and

(c) the reasons for the shortcomings and the action taken to remove the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. VJAYA BHASKARA REDDY): (a) to (c). Legal Aid Programmes are organised by the State Legal Aid & Advice Boards and District Legal Aid Committees etc., whose working is overseen by the Chief Justices of the respective State High Court and Judges of the High

Court besides senior Judicial Officers in the State, who are actively associated with the State Boards and District Committees. Further, such programmes, particularly Lok Adalats, are often attended by the Chief Justice of India in his capacity as Patron-in-Chief CILAS and Executive Chairman, CILAS, who is a sitting Judge of the Supreme Court. The working of the Legal Aid Programme is reviewed as and when meetings of the Members of the Committee for Developing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) are held. No shortcomings on the Legal Aid Programmes have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme

*127. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Foreign Exchange Immunity Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India has given rise to large scale hawala transactions and under-invoicing of exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to stop misuse of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The Enforcement Directorate and the Central Board of Direct Taxes have informed that there is no indication that the Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Scheme formulated by the Reserve Bank of India had given rise to a large scale hawala transactions and under invoicing of exports.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Electronic Items

*128. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: