

(b) the total annual production of cloth at present; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production of cloth ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Per capita consumption of cloth for the year 1987-88 (latest year for which figures are available) is 16.35 linear metres.

(b) The production of cloth during 1990-91 is estimated at 20354 million sq. metres.

(c) The production of cloth and yarn has been steadily increasing over the years. Government policy of liberalisation and modernisation of industry is expected to give further fillip to the production of cloth in future.

LOANS FOR AGRICULTURE AND AGRO-BASED INDUSTRIES

***280. SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-RAO GUNDEWAR :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to permit the Urban banks to advance loans for agriculture and agro-based industries in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which permission is likely to be accorded; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) By definition, such banks operate only in urban and semi-urban pockets in their respective areas of operation.

[English]

DEFENCE AIRCRAFT CRASHES

***281. DR. A. K. PATEL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of defence aircraft crashes during January—March, 1991.

(b) the number of persons killed or injured; and

(c) how these figures compare with those of the corresponding period of 1990 ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) During Jan.—March 1991, there were 8 Defence aircraft crashes in which 34 persons were killed and none injured. In the corresponding period in 1990, there were 6 crashes which resulted in the death of 17 persons and injuries to 16.

ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT PROCESSING ZONE AT VISAKHAPATNAM

***282. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY : SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO :**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an Export Processing Zone at Visakhapatnam;

(b) if so, the steps taken in respect of land, building, water, electricity etc. and infrastructural facilities proposed to be made available to the entrepreneurs; and

(c) the date from which these facilities will be made available ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken for development of the Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone :—

(i) The Visakhapatnam Export Processing Zone Administration has taken the possession of 360.51 acres of land.

(ii) The Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation has been appointed as the nodal agency for development of necessary infrastructure. It has already finalized pre-qualification tenders and final tender is under preparation.

(iii) The Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation has prepared a scheme for supply of 1 MGD of water. The nodal agency has sunk 4 bore wells out of which one has already been energised.

(iv) The State Electricity Board has begun erection of 33/11 K.V. Sub-Station, which is scheduled for completion by the end of October, 1991.

PERFORMANCE OF NATIONALISED BANKS

*283. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ratio of net profit to total working funds of the nationalised banks has been showing declining trend during the last five years in comparison to the performance of foreign banks in India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve efficiency and profitability of the nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) As per information available for the period 1986 to March 1990, the ratios of net profit to working funds for nationalised banks were lower than those of foreign banks operating in India.

(b) The better performance of foreign banks operating in the country in terms of profitability may be attributed, among other things, to their concentration in metropolitan and port towns, mechanisation and computerisation of operations, lower priority sector lending and high level of non-fund business.

(c) Government and Reserve Bank of India have taken a number of steps for improving the performance and profitability of the public sector banks including nationalised banks. The measures are

aimed at strengthening of the capital base, rationalisation of service charges and interest rates structure and containment of staff growth. For reinforcing financial viability, the banks have been advised to ensure better credit management, raise productivity and effect economy wherever possible. To provide the competitive edge to banks, new money market instruments like certificates of deposits and commercial papers have been introduced and interest rates on term deposits have been enhanced. Banks have also been permitted to diversify their activities.

OPENING OF MORE BRANCHES BY FOREIGN BANKS

*284. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI MADAN LAL
KHURANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foreign banks have recently sought permission to open more branches in the country;

(b) whether the Government have given permission for the same; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard with reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The statutory powers in terms of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 for issue of licence for carrying on banking business in India vest with Reserve Bank of India (RBI). No licence for a branch has been issued by Reserve Bank of India to any foreign bank in 1990 and 1991 (todate).

IMF LOAN

*285. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an IMF delegation visited Delhi to have talks with the Government regarding proposed IMF loan to India; and