

(b) & (c). Exports of Indian pepper have not stopped. The US authorities have however, black listed all Malbar pepper coming from India as it is alleged that Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) has been found in some consignments. EDB is banned as a fumigant for good articles in USA. All arrivals of Indian black pepper are being automatically detained/ending tests to ensure that the lot is free of EDB

(d) & (e). On the basis of preliminary investigation, steps are being taken to ensure that exporters do not fumigate black pepper with EDB.

Fictitious deals by Bank Managers, Excise and Income Tax officials in Bihar

7847. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI
SHAKTAWAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of bank managers, excise and income tax officials have been caught in Bihar as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' of 29 March, 1986 ;

(b) if so, full details of the persons involved in such fictitious deals ; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government against the involved erring bank officials, excise and income tax officials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) & (b). The Central Bureau of Investigation has reported that its Patna and Ranchi Branches had caught two Bank Managers, one Income-Tax Inspector and one Superintendent and five Inspectors of Central Excise while demanding and accepting illegal gratification.

(c) After investigation is completed, further action will be taken/recommended by CBI as per law.

[Translation]

Low Investment by Commercial Banks in Bihar

7848. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA :

SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

SHRIMATI MADHUREE
SINGH :

SHRI MEWA SINGH GILL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Bihar have recently written to the Union Government that low investment of capital by commercial banks is adversely affecting the State's major development projects pertaining to irrigation, electricity, agriculture, industry, transport and communications ;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a), (b) & (c). The Chief Minister of Bihar had recently written to the Union Government regarding the low credit : deposit ratio of banks in Bihar. As at the end of March 1985, credit : deposit ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks in Bihar was 41.8 per cent as compared to 69.7 per cent for the country as a whole. Besides providing loans in the State, banks also invest in loans floated by the Bihar State Government and/or by State Government Agencies. Reserve Bank of India has reported that commercial banks have subscribed on an average during 1983-84 to 1985-86 about 84 per cent of the total amount of loans floated by the Government of Bihar, the Bihar State Electricity Board (SEB), the Bihar State Housing Board and the Bihar State Road Transport Corporation (BSRTC).

The main reasons for low credit : deposit ratio in Bihar are reported to be

lack of proper infrastructural facilities, inadequate and irregular supply of power, lack of assured irrigation etc. together with factors like inadequacy of appropriate staff, lack of proper guidance from controlling offices, lack of publicity for various credit linked schemes. The credit : deposit ratio of banks in Bihar and general economic backwardness was discussed in the State Level Bankers' Committee meeting on 1-2-1986. A Committee consisting of the Government Secretaries and Bankers has been constituted to monitor progress of improvement in credit : deposit ratio.

[English]

Diamond Exports Trade

7849. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that diamond export trade is concentrated in the hands of few persons ;

(b) the number of registered exporters in this field ; and

(c) whether Government have any programme to make this trade more broad-based ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of diamond exporters registered with the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council on 31-3-1986 was 1422.

(c) There is no restriction imposed on persons desirous of doing diamond exports from India in accordance with the policy in force.

Direct purchase of Tobacco from Farmers by STC for export

7850. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that purchase of tobacco from farmers is handled by

middlemen who pocket major share of the profit ;

(b) the reasons for State Trading Corporation not making direct purchase of tobacco as is being done by Food Corporation of India in the case of foodgrains ; and

(c) the quantum and value of export of tobacco during 1985-86, country-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) Virginia Tobacco is being purchased by the registered exporters and dealers in tobacco at the various auction platforms operated by the Tobacco Board in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

(b) With the introduction of auctions for sale of Virginia tobacco in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, since 1984-85 the Tobacco Board has been required to purchase the left over tobacco in the auctions at the minimum support price. Hence the question of STC purchasing tobacco direct from the growers does not arise.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

The quantity and value of Tobacco exported to major destinations during 1985-86 is given below :

S. No.	Country	Qty : in '000' Tonnes	
		Qty.	Val.
1.	USSR	31.70	79.68
2.	U K.	9.5	24.25
3.	YAR	6.46	5.94
4.	Nepal	3.03	4.30
5.	Algeria	1.70	4.13