

(b) if so, the action/taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b). The State Government of Kerala had been making requests for permission to grant interest subsidy which may be given by Cooperatives on their loans to farmers. The Government, Reserve Bank of India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development do not favour such interest rate concessions across the board to be implemented through the cooperatives.

Diversion of Traffic from National Highway No.9 to State Roads

2684. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy vehicular traffic has been diverted to Ibahim-patnam-Tiruvuru and Nandigama-Madhira State Highways because of the damaged bridge on Keesara on National Highway No.9;

(b) if so, whether these roads have been badly damaged because of this diversion of heavy vehicular traffic;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government propose to grant adequate funds out of the Central Road Fund to repair and improve these two roads;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir, but only during the monsoon period.

(b) State Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that the damages which are occurring from time to time are being repaired by them and the roads are being kept in traffic worthy condition.

(c) to (e). Since the State Government has not sponsored any such proposal under their Central Road Fund Programme for 8th plan period, the question of granting adequate funds out of Central Road Fund does not arise.

Per-Capita Investment in Commercial Banks in Andhra Pradesh

2685. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per-capita investment of scheduled commercial banks in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is far less as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to enhance the per-capita investment of commercial banks in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALIBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). As reported by Reserve Bank of India the per capita investment of the Scheduled Commercial Banks (excluding RRBs) in the state of Andhra Pradesh and All India as at the end of March 1988, 1989 and 1990 (latest available) is as under:-

Per Capita Investments (Rs.)

	<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	<i>All India</i>
March 1988	173	187
March 1989	205	215
March 1990	231	249

The advances of the commercial banks in the state and the C.D ratio for the three years were as under:-

(Amount in Rs. crores)

	ADVANCES		C.D RATIO	
	Andhra Pradesh	All India	Andhra Pradesh	All India
June 89	7015.22	96587.87	86.9	65.5
June 90	8187.52	114643.65	87.9	66.0
June 91	9014.79	130321.21	81.5	65.5

Thus it may be seen that C:D ratio in the state of Andhra Pradesh is on the higher side as compared to all India figures. The C:D ratio is not the sole indicator of Economic Development of a particular State/Region. The actual level of credit in relation to locally mobilised deposits in a particular State/Region depends upon the credit absorption capacity of State/Region which in turn is determined and influenced by factors such as development of infrastructural facilities. Nevertheless the banks have been advised to ensure that wide regional disparities among States in credit deployment are avoided and effectives steps are taken to increase flow of credit to all productive and identified viable proposals in deficient areas.

Tea Production

2686. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea production in the country has increased during the last few years;

(b) if so, the production of tea during each of the last three years and the estimated production during the current year; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase further its production?

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

(b) The production of tea in the country has increased during the last three years as is evident from the figure given below:-

Year	Production (M.Kgs.)
1988-89	682.67
1989-90	702.81
1990-91	718.67*

*Provisional

It is estimated that production during the current financial year would be around 735 M.Kgs.

(c) Measures to increase production of tea include:

- (i) Short-term measures such as promoting optimisation of inputs and improved cultural practices.