

fore taken in hand a programme for integrated development of cashewnut in India. Under this programme measures such as area expansion, distribution of improved planting material, pest control, popularisation of clonal cultivation etc. has have been taken up. The Ministry of Agriculture has allocated a sum of Rs. 30 crores for this programme during the 8th Five Year Plan.

Sharavathi Bridge

1782. SHRIMATICHANDRAPRAABHA URS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether sharavathi bridge, near Hannover on National Highway No. 17 in Karnataka is in dilapidated condition;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of the bridge; and

(c) the funds likely to be released for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Certain distresses have been observed in Sharavathi bridge near Honnavar on NH-17 in Karnataka due to which only light vehicles are being permitted to ply on the bridge at present.

(b) The work of investigations and suggesting remedial measures has been entrusted to consultants.

(c) As the repair plain is yet to be finalised, it is too early to indicate the funds likely to be released for repair work.

Privatisation of Ports

1783. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to handover one berth of Bombay Port to private party; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) At present the Government have no such proposal,

(b) 'Does not arise.

Credit Squeeze in Rural Areas

1784. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is credit squeeze applicable to the Jinning and Pressing Mills located in the rural areas;

(b) if so, whether this is adversely affecting cotton purchases in the rural areas of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRARAHMED): (a) to (c). Advances to Ginning and Pressing Mills by banks are governed the provisions of selective credit control (SCC) measures applicable to sensitive commodities. SCC is a mechanism of credit control to achieve the appropriate distribution of credit to the various sectors of economy and also to prevent speculative holding of sensitive commodities without the help of bank credit. Under SCC measure, credit facilities granted to such units are subject to observance of minimum margin, rate of interest, level of credit etc. in accordance with SCC direc-

tives issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time. With a view to ease the supply position of cotton and kapas to ginning and pressing mills thereby providing relief to cotton growers in the rural areas of the country including Andhra Pradesh, the margin requirement in respect of cotton and kapas which was 60% has been reduced to 45% effective from 19th January, 1993 and the margin for this commodity against warehouse receipt has also been reduced from 45% to 30% from the same date.

Upgradation of Cities

1785. SHRI ANADI CHARANDAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received representations from various State Governments for upgradation of cities;

(b) if so, the details of such representations received during the last two years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the details of the cities upgraded so far in each State;

(d) the details of the representations which are still under consideration of the Union Government; and

(e) the time by which a final view is taken by the Union Government on such representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. M.Y. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) (a) to (e).

A number of representations from different quarters, including from hon'ble Members of Parliament, Staff Associations and State Governments, have been received for upgradation of cities/towns in various States and Union Territories like Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya pradesh, Pondicherry and Goa.

Upgradation/.re-classification of cities for the purpose of HRA/CCA is done on the basis of figures as reflected in the final population figures of the cities/towns on the basis of the decennial census. The final population figures of 1991 census have since been receive and action has been initiated to upgraded/reclassify cities, wherever necessary in accordance with the criteria laid down for the purpose.

Performance of State Trading Corporation

1786. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present turn-over of the State Tading Corporation and its operations efficiently during each of the last three years; and

(b) the policy of State Trading Corporation in the light of liberalisation of economic polices during the Eighth Five year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):(a) Total turn-over of STC during last three years and the period April, '92-January, '93 is given below:-

	<i>Rs. in crores</i>			
	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	Apr '92-jan'93
Exports	752	369	625	308
Imports	1070	1332	610	293
Domestic	33	55	80	129
Total	1855	1756	1315	730