

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have issued licences to set up branches of national banks in Vidisha, Raisen and Sihore districts of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether the banks have opened the branches; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS): (a) to (c). The banking centres in the districts of Vidisha, Raisen and Sihore will be either semi-urban or rural. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently allotted a specified number of branches to each bank to open their branches at semi-urban centres of their choice in the country. No specific quota for any particular State or Union Territory has been fixed. RBI has not received any proposal from the banks for Districts Vidisha, Raisen and Sihore for opening branches in semi-urban centres.

As regards rural centres RBI had received 10 proposals for District Vidisha and 2 for District Sihore through the state Government of Madhya Pradesh. No proposal for District Raisen has been received by RBI. Only one proposal for centre Charnel in District Sihore conformed to RBI's Service Area norms and licence has been issued to Bank of India on 11.8.1992 for opening a branch thereat. The bank has not yet opened the branch at the centre. The licence is valid for one year.

[English]

### Foreign Equity in Shipping Sector

641. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have allowed 51 per cent foreign equity in the shipping sector thereby throwing open Indian shipping industry to tally to foreign competition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interests of the Indian shipping industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). In consonance with the Government policy of liberalisation of economy and with a view and thus increasing the Indian tonnage, the Government has allowed 51% foreign Equity in the shipping sector.

(c) The above measure will permit Foreign Equity participation only up to 51% in an Indian company and is expected to result in more capital investment in acquisition of ships. This should in turn increase Indian tonnage and a larger share in international trade by India. Cargo preference from Trans-Chart would continue be available to all Indian shipping companies as usual. The above measure is likely to promote Indian shipping and achieve the objective of increased tonnage as contemplate in the national shipping policy.

[Translation]

### Narsimham Committee

642. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Narsimham Committee have not been implemented so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (c). Initiatives taken pursuant to the Committee's recommendations include reduction in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (//SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) simplification of interest rate structure positioning of norms in respect of capital adequacy, income recognition and provisioning requirements, revision of balance sheet and profit and loss formats for ensuring greater transparency, revision of Reserve Bank of India guidelines for branch licensing, initiation of process of converting Industrial Finance Corporation India (IFCI) into a company, issue of guidelines on entry of new private sector banks, etc. Government have decided to implement the recommendations of the Committee in a phased manner.

### Foreign Loans Data

643. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the data regarding foreign loans published by the Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India are not similar;

(b) if so, thereasons therefor; 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. ABRAR

AHMED): (a) In the past, there are some differences in the data on external debt of India as published by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The differences across due to differences in concept, classification and valuation of external debt.

(c) In December 1991, the Governor, RBI, appointed a Policy Group and a Task Force on External Debt Statistics. One of the terms of reference of the Group was to look into the differences in debt statistics as between the Government of India and the RBI. The Group Submitted its Report on March 31, 1992 after reconciling the differences in debt statistics of RBI, Government and international agencies. It recommended a new classification system for external Sector' which would, inter alia, serve as the primary source of all debt data in the country in the future.

[English]

### World Bank Assistance for Comprehensive Agricultural Development Plan

645. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM  
SHRI HARIKEWAL  
PRASAD  
SHRI ARJUN SINGH  
YADAV

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have sought World Bank Assistance for the comprehensive agricultural development plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and