

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve the financial position of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) The names of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and their Headquarters in the State of Maharashtra are given below :

S. No.	Name of Regional Rural Bank	Headquarters
1	Marathwada Gramin Bank	Nanded
2	Aurangabad Jalna Gramin Bank	Aurangabad
3	Chandrapur Gadchiroli Gramin Bank	Chandrapur
4	Akola Gramin Bank	Akola
5	Ratnagiri Sindhudurg Gramin Bank	Ratnagiri
6	Solapur Gramin Bank	Solapur
7	Bhandara Gramin Bank	Bhandara
8	Yavatmal Gramin Bank	Yavatmal
9	Buldhana Gramin Bank	Buldhana
10	Thane Gramin Bank	Thane

(b) The main objective of the RRBs are to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas, to make available institutional credit to the weaker sections of the society, to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas, to create supplementary channel for flow of credit from the central money market to the rural areas through refinance, to generate employment opportunities in rural areas. As at the end of March, 1993 the total deposits of all RRBs in Maharashtra was Rs. 16,513.78 lakhs and the advances (Outstanding) was Rs. 22,512.75 lakhs as at the end of March, 1994 the total deposits of all RRBs in Maharashtra was Rs. 14,496.72 lakhs and the advances (Outstanding) was Rs. 16,756.96 lakhs.

(c) and (d) In the process of reaching to the weaker sections and fulfilling the broad socio-economic objectives, these RRBs have suffered financially. Poor recovery performance of the RRBs in the State has compounded the problem of liquidity.

The reasons for incurring losses by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are attributable to several factors like restriction on the clientele, limited area of operation, low interest margins, mounting establishment costs particularly after implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal etc.

(e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken measures to strengthen the RRBs and a package of measures were announced in December, 1993 and

subsequently, 49 RRBs out of total of 196 RRBs in the country have been identified for comprehensive restructuring during 1994-95. Experience with these 49 RRBs will guide the approach in later years to other RRBs. The objective is to transform the presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banker. Further RBI has allowed in January, 1995, RRBs to make investment of their non-SLR surplus funds in specified profitable avenues including the credit portfolio of their sponsor banks through non-risk sharing participation certificate to be issued by the latter.

The 49 RRBs taken up for comprehensive restructuring in the country include two RRBs from Maharashtra. An amount of Rs. 294.76 lakhs has been released by Central Government as its share towards additional equity and a liquidity component for these two RRBs.

[English]

Foreign Equity Investment

4731. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total value of foreign equity invested by the country as on March 31, 1993 and March, 1994 with break-up by country of origin in the economic sector,

(b) total inflow/outflow of foreign capital during 1992-93 and 1993-94, inclusive of equity capital, profits, dividends, royalty and technical fees; and

(c) the net inflow during each year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Cotton

4732. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of cotton in other countries have suffered setback this year;

(b) whether the Government intend to export more quantity of cotton and yarn to earn more foreign exchange this year; and

(c) if so, the details of the quota released for export during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) . (a) Yes Sir, During the 1994-95 cotton season, production of cotton has suffered a setback in other countries also.

(b) and (c). Keeping in view the domestic situation, Government has so far released only 1 lakh bales Bengal Deshi and 0.05 lakh bales of Assam Comilla varieties

of cotton. As regard exports of cotton yarn, Government have prescribed a ceiling of 75 million kgs. for export of cottons yarn of counts 1 - 40s for 1995. Cotton yarn of counts 41s and above are not subject to ceiling restrictions.

Air India Office at Dubai

4733. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India had called back the entire Indian staff based at its office in Dubai in September, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to improve the working conditions of the Dubai office?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b). Consequent upon the seizure of gold by Customs on Air India flight AI-744 of 29th August, 1994 on Dubai-Bombay sector, the Government had decided to recall Air India staff handling flight operations at Dubai. Accordingly, the concerned staff was recalled in phases from October, 1994 to February 1995 by Air India.

(c) Engineering personnel have been instructed to check the avionics compartment on all departures. The security arrangements are reviewed periodically and surprise checks are undertaken to ensure that the system is working properly.

Anti-Dumping Legislation

4734. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL :
SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Financial Express on April 4, 1995 under captioned "Experts call for improved anti-dumping legislation";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government to the observations made therein and the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been taken for dealing with anti-dumping cases with the growing globalisation process and magnitude of the problem; and

(d) if so, the details of dumping cases received, investigated and disposed of during each of the last three years?

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

(b) Anti-dumping investigations in India are governed by the provisions of Section 9, 9A and 9B of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975 and the Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-

dumping Duty on Dumped Articles for Determination of Injury) Rules, 1995. The above legislation is modelled on Article VI of the W.T.O. Agreement dealing with anti-dumping investigations and is, therefore, at par with the legislation of other countries on the subject.

(c) Yes, Sir. An Officer of the Ministry of Commerce acts as the Designated Authority for dealing with anti-dumping cases. The officer is assisted by suitable staff in the Anti-dumping division for dealing with such cases.

(d) The details of dumping cases investigated and disposed of during the last three years is given below:

Year	Item	Country	Action Taken
1992-93	Bisphenol-A	Japan	Final finding made and anti-dumping duty imposed
	PVC Resins	Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, South Korea & U.S.A.	-do-
1993-94	Isobutyl Benzene	People's Republic of China (PRC)	Preliminary finding made and provisional anti-dumping duty imposed
1994-95	Theophylline and Caffeine	PRC	-do-
	3,4,5, TMBA	PRC	-do-
	Bisphenol-A	Russia and Brazil	Investigation in progress
	KMNO-4	PRC	-do-
	NBR	Japan	-do-

[Translation]

Minimum Wages Act, 1948

4735. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Union Government have finalised the proposal for amending the Minimum Wages Act, 1948;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government to strengthen the above Act and to increase the wage rates?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The proposals to amend the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 are under consideration of the Government.