

1	2	3	4
7.	Indian Bank	230.96	180.94
8.	Indian Overseas Bank	258.60	132.74
9.	Punjab and Sind Bank	116.03	-
10.	Syndicate Bank	278.59	88.79
11.	UCO Bank	515.52	-
12.	United Bank of India	538.87	-
13.	Vijaya Bank	62.31	-
Total		4362.54	924.58

Agricultural Wages

3709. SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some studies undertaken in the country under Economic Survey for 1994-95 have indicated that agricultural wages have declined by 5 per cent in 1991-92;

(b) if so, the details of States and Union Territories where declining trend prevailed;

(c) whether such declining trend has improved considerably in some States and Union territories during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(d) if so, the details of such States and Union Territories;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some steps to improve the declining status in this regard;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Average real wages for unskilled agricultural labour declined by 5.3 per cent in 1991-92 (agricultural year-July to June) for the country as a whole. The declining trend has been observed in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

(c) and (d). In 1992-93 and 1993-94 average real agricultural wages increased by 5.6 per cent and 3.6 per cent respectively for the country as a whole. They recorded an increase in 1992-93 in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. In 1993-94 real wages increased in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu.

(e) to (g). The Central Plan outlay for Rural Development which encompasses the major programmes for poverty alleviation and employment is raised from Rs. 5010 crore (BE) in 1993-94 (financial year) to Rs. 7700 crore (BE) for 1995-96 showing an increase by 53.69 per cent. This is expected to increase

agricultural wages while raising employment in rural areas. The higher overall economic growth in recent years is also expected to help in improving agricultural wages.

[Translation]

Theft of R.E.P. Licences

3710. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have investigated the cases of theft of R.E.P. Licences;

(b) if so, the detailed outcome thereof;

(c) the number of persons found involved and the charge-sheets issued in such cases;

(d) the details of the persons whose licences have gone in theft and the number thereof to whom duplicate licence have been issued out of them;

(e) the details of such persons who have applied for duplicate licences but licences have not been issued to them to far; and

(f) the reasons for the delay in issuance of duplicate licences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (f). Whenever theft of licences are reported, appropriate precautionary steps are taken to check any possible misuse of stolen licences. The cases are also handed over to CBI/local police for further investigation. Details are being collected from the Regional Licensing Offices and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Prawn Feed

3711. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirements of the prawn feed in the country;

(b) the total quantity and value of prawn feed produced in our country and imported from abroad, separately; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage production of indigenous prawn feed in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The total annual requirement of prawn feed in the country is presently estimated to be 1,50,000 tonnes.

(b) The estimated quantity and value (at an average rate) of prawn feed produced in the country and that imported from abroad is as follows :

Quantity of prawn feed produced in the country	...	60,000 tonnes
Value of prawn feed produced in the country	...	Rs. 120 crores

Quantity of prawn feed imported from abroad	...	40,000 tonnes
Value of prawn feed imported from abroad	...	Rs. 160 crores

(c) Following steps have been taken to encourage production of prawn feed in the country :

- (i) Equity participation by MPEDA in shrimp feed projects and integrated agriculture projects having shrimp feed mills.
- (ii) Grant of full duty exemption to major raw materials such as fish meal and duty reduction on other inputs such as vitamin pre-mixes required for feed production.
- (iii) Permitting foreign/NRI investment in setting up prawn feed mills.

Sales Tax on Jute Industry

3712. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation against the multipoint sales tax being charged on jute goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G.VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c). Representation have been received in this regard mentioning various adverse impacts of multipoint taxation levied by the Government of West Bengal and have suggested its replacement by single point taxation. Since sales tax is a state subject, Jute Commissioner's Office has requested the Government of West Bengal for appropriate consideration of the representation.

[Translation]

Agreements to Promote Tourism

3713. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of agreements signed with foreign countries to promote tourism during the last two years alongwith the names of the countries;

(b) the names of the various tourism projects introduced in the country under these agreements;

(c) the nature and quantum of assistance received or being received under the agreements from the foreign countries for these projects; and

(d) the details regarding the progress of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) During the period 1.1.93 to 31.12.94 India signed bilateral tourism cooperation agreements with the following countries :

- Belarus
- Israel
- Uzbekistan
- Korea
- Singapore
- Bulgaria
- Romania
- Russian Federation

(b) to (d). Bilateral tourism cooperation agreements are basic statements of intention of cooperation and understanding. No tourism projects have been introduced in the country under these agreements.

[English]

Modernisation of Hyderabad Airport

3714. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the modernisation of Hyderabad airport is under completion;

(b) if so, the main modernisation plans that have been completed; and

(c) the extent to which it will be beneficial?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Installation of Instrument Landing System and Distance Measuring Equipment have been completed in April, 1994.

Installation of Primary and Secondary Radars has been completed and is stated for commissioning in June, 1995.

Construction of International Terminal Building and expansion of existing building is in progress.

On completion of the modernisation project, Hyderabad airport will be able to handle 3000 passengers at a time.

[Translation]

Chit and Finance Companies in Gujarat

3715. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of registered Chit and Finance Companies in Gujarat, particularly in tribal areas as on February 1995 under Bank guarantee; and

(b) the number of financial companies declared bankrupt or closed down during the last three years?