

not to be repaid and the countries from which it was obtained?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Manmohan Singh) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO AQUA FARMERS

1723. Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recently issued guidelines to the Commercial Banks and financial institutions regarding provision of financial assistance to the Aqua Farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the immediate steps to provide finance to the Aqua Farmers have been taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Finance (Shri Manmohan Singh) :

(a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been extending refinance support for aquaculture schemes. Based inter-alia, on the suggestions put forward at the Aquaculture Consultation Meet organised by NABARD in November 1994, suggestions for formulation/sanctions of brackish water aquaculture schemes have been communicated by NABARD to all the commercial banks/State Governments. The guidelines/safeguards for formulating/appraising Schemes are as under :

- (i) Need for thorough appraisal on the suitability of the project site and design;
- (ii) Semi-intensive farming for farms having water spread area of at least 15 hectares;
- (iii) More detailed appraisal of creek dependent farms having regard to occurrence of disease;
- (iv) Provision of additional loans for reservoirs and sedimentation tanks in aquaculture farm; and
- (v) Financing for aqua-hatchery scheme should be done after a master plan is prepared by the concerned State Governments.

(c) to (e) NABARD has reported that all aquaculture scheme proposals received for refinance support in respect of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Union Territory of Pondicherry have been kept in abeyance till the disposal of a public interest litigation filed in Supreme Court. Further, NABARD has decided not to support such scheme in certain creeks of Nellore, Vishakapatam and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh on account of recurrence of diseases. However, proposals from other States are considered for sanction on strict compliance by the borrowing units/State Governments of the conditions stipulated in the environmental notification issued by Government of India.

POWERLOOM COMMISSIONER

1724. Shri Rajendra Agnihotri : Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint a Commissioner for powerloom;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

The Minister of Textiles (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) :

(a) to (c) Yes Sir, there is a proposal to appoint a Commissioner for powerlooms to address the problems of the decentralised sector on a full time basis. A decision on this would require concurrence of concerned Ministries.

GUNNY BAGS

1725. Dr. P. R. Gangwar : Will the Minister of Textiles be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on the use of synthetic fibre in manufacture of gunny bags; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Textiles (Shri G. Venkat Swamy) :

(a) and (b) No Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

UNEMPLOYED IN GUJARAT

1726. Shri Harisinh Chavda : Will the Minister of Labour be pleased to state :

(a) the number of job-less persons registered with various employment exchanges in the State of Gujarat so far;

(b) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to provide employment to these persons in the near future;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide special grants to the States to give unemployment allowance to the jobless youths of the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Labour (Shri P. A. Sangma) : (a) 8.98 lakh job-seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, are registered with various employment exchanges in the State of Gujarat as on 31st May, 1995.

(b) The Eighth Five Year Plan envisages a strategy for achieving the goal of near full employment situation in the country as a whole by the year 2002. This goal is sought to be achieved by accelerating growth of productive employment opportunities on the basis of faster growth of employment-intensive sectors, sub-sectors and activities. The action taken by the Government of Gujarat in creating