

(e) the likely impact of such expenditure on profitability of the Air India ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Air India is proposing to acquire two 400 seater aircraft in 1996 and 1997.

(c) and (d). Financing arrangements will be finalised after the aircraft acquisition proposal is approved.

(e) This investment will have a positive effect on the profitability of Air India.

[English]

Writing off of bad debts of Banks

891. SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of assets to the commercial banks in case the recent directive of the Reserve Bank of India allowing them to write off individual bad debt upto Rs. 25 lakhs is fully implemented;

(b) the proportion advanced to the corporate sector of aggregate debts permitted to be written off; and

(c) whether the banks are likely to be allowed to make a public disclosure of the names of the parties whose debts are written off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported

that no directive allowing commercial banks to write off individual bad debts upto Rs. 25 lakh has been issued.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) of the question.

(c) RBI has intimated that at present there is no proposal to publish the names of the parties whose debts are written off.

Credit requirements of Agricultural Sector

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

(a) whether the Government have estimated the total financial requirement of agricultural sector to realise the full potential thereof;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also estimated the credit requirements of farmers to enable them to use optimum inputs to achieve maximum per hectare yields; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make available funds for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The credit estimates for agriculture sector for the remaining period of VIII Five Year Plan based on the Potential Linked Plans (PLPs) prepared by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) in respect of all the districts in the country are given below:

| Year | Investment Credit | Production Credit | Total |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 1994-95 | 8743 | 9254 | 17997 |
| 1995-96 | 9714 | 10155 | 19869 |
| 1996-97 | 10801 | 11052 | 21853 |

The estimated disbursements of institutional credit during 1993-94 stood at Rs. 15,000 crores and loans for 1994-95 have been estimated at Rs. 16,700 crores.

As per crop loan system adopted by the banks, the farmers are required to be lent for cultivation of crops, as per scale of finance fixed every year by the District Level Technical Committees consisting of Experts and Bankers. The scale of finance consists of 'A' (Cash component) and 'B' (Kind Component-viz. fertilizer, seeds etc.).

Textile Mills in West Bengal

893. SHRI PRAMOTHES
MUKHERJEE:
SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government are aware of the conditions of workers of textile mills in West Bengal due to non-payment of salary for three consecutive months;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for making the regular payments of workers of textile mills specially Mamindra and B.T. Mills;

(c) whether the Government have directed the NTC Chairman, eastern zone

to pay-off the retirement benefits of the workers after acceptance of S.I.T.R.A. norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Salaries and wages in all the mills under NTC (WBABO) Ltd. have been paid upto the first fortnight of June, 1994. The payments of wages and salaries for the fortnight is in process.

(c) and (d). As far as NTC is concerned, the benefits are paid under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. As per the Scheme, the following benefits are admissible:-

- (i) Balance of his provident fund Account payable as per employees Provident Fund Act and Rules made thereunder;
- (ii) Cash equivalent of accumulated earned leave/privilege leave as per the rules of the mills/office concerned.
- (iii) Gratuity as per payment of Gratuity Scheme, if any; and
- (iv) Ex-gratia payment equivalent to one and a half month (11/2 months) emoluments (pay +