

(b) and (c). Company-wise information on imports is not maintained.

(d) No information/representation on distress sale by domestic sellers has been received.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Bank Branches in Bihar

4435. SHRI GIRDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the branches of nationalised banks in Bihar, bank-wise and location-wise;

(b) the details of amount deposited in these banks during each of the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) the amount sanctioned/allocated to the farmers during the above period bank-wise;

(d) whether the target fixed for extending loans to the farmers have been achieved by these banks; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

NIFT Centres

4436. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open any more centres of the National Institute of Fashion Technology during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the amount spent for smooth functioning and maintenance of the NIFT centres already set up during each of the last three years till date, centre-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Proposals received from some States are under examination.

(c) Five branches of NIFT were set up at Calcutta, Gandhinagar, Hyderabad, Madras and Mumbai in the year 1995. The expenditures incurred for smooth functioning and

maintenance of each of these Centres during the financial year 1995-96 are shown below against the names of the centres:

| Branch | Rs. in lakh |
|-------------|-------------|
| Calcutta | 73.00 |
| Gandhinagar | 70.00 |
| Hyderabad | 78.00 |
| Madras | 80.00 |
| Mumbai | 83.50 |

[English]

Commodity Switch Scam

4437. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Commodity-switch scam cost 150 million" appearing in the "Economic Times dated August 5, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to do away with such "switch deals" to obviate huge losses to the country in terms of hard currency earnings and sort out the repayment of debt to the erstwhile Soviet Union;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the action taken by the Government to deal with the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLÁ BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The said news item refers to the reported diversion of export consignments to Russia in respect of spices and coffee under the debt repayment scheme. In this regard Coffee Board have informed that complaints were received that part of exports of coffee permitted to Russia under the debt repayment funds were being switched to other countries on high seas instead of landing in Russia. The Coffee Board intimated that they had taken the following remedial steps on immediate basis:-

- (i) All the exporters who have shipped coffee to Russia after 1.4.96 were requested to furnish corresponding landing certificates along with customs clearance certificates;
- (ii) The exporters were also warned out not to divert coffee from the destinations mentioned in the permits;