

ing 83,202 were received by the banks in Maharashtra as on 31st December, 1986. Out of this 20,528 applications, involving amount of Rs. 5.73 crores were sanctioned loans till that date.

[Translation]

#### Arrears of Income Tax

3171. SHRI KUNWAR RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount outstanding on account of Income Tax as on 31 March 1980;

(b) the amount assessed and realised during the subsequent five years;

(c) the number of assessee against whom income-tax demand exceeding rupees 10 lakhs was outstanding as on 31 March, 1986; and

(d) the action taken by Government for realisation of arrears ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) Income-tax arrears outstanding as on 31.3.1980 were Rs. 589.65 crores. In addition, an amount of Rs. 422.20 crores outstanding as on 31.3.1980 was not fallen due for payment.

(b) (Rs. in crore)

Financial year	Demand created during the year	Collection/ reduction out of current demand during the year
1980-81	2498.05	2036.21
1981-82	2666.01	2128.80
1982-83	3104.23	2380.03
1983-84	3710.99	2767.56
1984-85	5445.82	3931.90

(c) There were 2232 assessee against whom income-tax demand exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs was outstanding as on 31.3.1986.

(d) Depending upon the facts and circumstances of each case, appropriate steps, according to law, are taken from time to time by the concerned income-tax authorities for recovery/reduction of outstanding demand. These steps include, inter-alia, requesting the appellate authorities for expeditious disposal of the pending appeals. These also include resorting to proceeding under section 226 (3) and 179 of the Income-tax Act and attachment of movable and immovable properties after issuing recovery certificates to the Tax Recovery Officer under section 222 of the Income-tax Act.

[English]

#### Target for Employment Generation

3172. SHRI JAGANNATH PATT-NAIK : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the target of additional employment generation during the Seventh Plan is likely to be achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures proposed to ensure that Seventh Five Year Plan targets are fully achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Yes, Sir.

As per the Quick Estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation, in 1985-86 the Gross Domestic Product (GNP) at factor cost has recorded a growth rate of 5.1 per cent at constant (1970-71) prices. The present indications are that the growth rate achieved in 1985-86 will be maintained also in 1986-87. In other words the growth rate of the economy in the first two years of the Seventh Plan is in line with the Seventh Plan target of 5 per cent. It is thus expected that the target of additional employment generation during the Seventh Plan will also be achieved.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Removal of poverty and economic inequality remain a central concern of Planning

in India. Consistent with this objective, the Seventh Plan development strategy and the pattern of growth emerging from it are expected to lead to reduction in poverty and increase employment opportunities. The emphasis on accelerated agricultural growth, increased productivity of rice in Eastern India, developing the potential of dry-land agriculture, adoption of special measures to increase productivity and incomes of small and marginal farmers, implementation of the Minimum Needs Programme, expansion of irrigation facilities, the programmes like Special Component Plan for Scheduled Caste and Tribal Development Programmes, strategy for village and small industries etc., also help in the reduction of poverty and increase employment generation. In addition, a number of poverty alleviation and employment promotion programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) are being continued in the Seventh Plan at an accelerated pace, which aim at increasing the income of poor by creation of assets and generating employment. These measures will help in achieving the targetted growth rate in various sectors of economy, including additional employment generation during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

#### Loan to Shipping Industry

3174. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared any 'package rescue plan' for the sick shipping industry with a view to bailing it out from the current recession-hit conditions;

(b) if so, its broad outlines and the capital outlay involved;

(c) whether it would cover the grant of loans to those shipping companies which had defaulted in a big way in repaying their loans to the Shipping Development Fund, Committee; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the previous loan is proposed to be adjusted or treated and fresh loans are likely to be

granted to the sick Indian shipping companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (b). No package rescue plan has been prepared by the Government for the sick shipping companies. The cases of individual sick units would be considered, on merits, by SCICI, a new company sponsored by ICICI. As regards grant of loans to shipping companies who have defaulted in their repayments to SDFC, this would be considered on merits of each case and additional loans may be considered for improving their viability. The existing loans of the sick shipping companies may be restructured in a suitable manner if the company is found to be potentially viable.

#### Identification of areas for bilateral cooperation

3175. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation of senior British bio-technologists visited India earlier this month to identify areas for bilateral cooperation;

(b) if so, the outcome of the visit;

(c) the areas identified for bilateral cooperation; and

(d) the nature of assistance offered by the U. K. Team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. A delegation of senior British biotechnologists led by Dr. Geoffrey Potter is currently on a visit of India. The main objectives of the visit is to familiarise themselves about the present status of development in the areas of biotechnology, to present to the Indian side a review of the latest developments in biotechnology research, education and business in Britain and to explore the possible areas of collaboration between India and Britain.

The visit of the British biotechnology delegation is yet to be completed the nature