

(a) whether Government have issued instructions for upward revision of housing loans to officers of nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether revised enhanced limit of housing loans to officers will not be beneficial to more than 80 per cent of officers in nationalised banks; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). Government have issued revised guidelines in January 1988 which provide that the quantum of housing loans admissible to officers will be 50 times of the monthly pay of the officer or Rs. 2.50 lakh whichever is less in case of construction of new house on an existing plot/purchasing a plot and constructing houses thereon/purchasing a ready-built house/or flat which has not been occupied. In the case of enlarging the accommodation of an existing house, the amount admissible will be 50 times the monthly pay or Rs. 40,000 whichever is less. The amount of advance is limited to the estimated cost of construction.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. However, it is a fact that a substantial number of officers do not immediately benefit as a result of the revision in limits. These officers are permitted to opt for the benefits as were available under the pre-revised guidelines. This situation is, however, purely temporary and would automatically be remedied with the revision of pay of the officers the discussions for which have been initiated by Indian Banks' Association.

Cashewnut Export

7097. SHRI VAKKOM PU-

RUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of cashewnuts exported during 1987-88;

(b) the quantity of cashewnuts in stock in the country at present;

(c) whether it is a fact that large quantities of cashewnuts are piling up in Kerala since the export performance is very poor; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to improve the export of cashewnuts?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a): Cashew kernels exported during 1987-88 are estimated at 36325 tonnes.

(b) and (c). As on 31.3.1988 there was an estimated stock of around 3500 MT to 4000 MT of Cashew Kernels from last year's crop, a major portion of which is in Kerala.

(d) Continuous efforts are being made to improve productivity and quality to render Indian cashew kernels more competitive in the international market. As a direct measure, cash compensatory support on export of cashew in consumer packs and import replenishment are being allowed to be given on exports of cashew kernels.

Setting up of Cashew Board

7098. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Cashew Board under his Ministry; and

(b) the functions to be entrusted to the