

made recently by various Committees, namely, Kamath Committee on Multi-Agency Approach in financing agriculture, Dantwala Committee on Regional Rural Banks, Gunwant Desai Committee on Agricultural Credit Schemes of Commercial Banks and James Raj Committee on the functioning of the public Sector Banks. The expansion of banks' credit to

neglected sectors including agriculture remains under continual review of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) The comparative position of the agricultural and other advances from the scheduled commercial banks as at the end of December 1974 and 1977 is given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

	December 1974		December 1977	
	No. of A/cs.	Amount	No. of A/cs.	Amount
Agriculture	25,60,663	781.08	58,69,211	1651.06
Small Scale Industries	2,24,265	1017.29	4,76,935	1702.78
Transport Operators	74,276	120.53	1,96,293	338.88
Retail Trade and small business	3,74,362	149.21	10,70,960	321.43
Professional and self employed	2,07,921	39.62	5,66,507	91.14
Education	16,458	4.01	34,369	6.62
	34,66,945	2111.74	82,14,275	4111.91

It is difficult to quantify the employment generated on account of bank lending in the rural areas.

(c) what preventive measures have been taken by Government to stop such illegal smuggling?

Smuggling of Hashish and Hashish Oil from Nepal to United States via India

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGRAWAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir During the period from January to November, 1978, 30 persons involved in smuggling of hashish from Nepal were arrested.

4701. DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI :

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there have been some gangs who are engaged in smuggling hashish and hashish oil from Nepal to United States via India;

(b) whether any arrest has been made during the last one year in regard thereto; and

(c) In order to curb smuggling, preventive and intelligence machinery has been strengthened, the number of Customs Preventive check-posts along the Indo-Nepal border has been increased and located nearer the border. Patrolling along the vulnerable routes has been intensified and wireless network all along the border is being installed. Customs Preven-

tive staff have also been kept fully alert to thwart any attempts at smuggling across the border and at all entry and exit points, including seaports and international airports.

Handing over of Tea Gardens to previous Owners

4702. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state whether Government of India have decided to hand over the taken-over gardens to the previous owners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): Under the provisions of the Tea Act as amended in 1976, the Central Government have taken over 5 sick tea gardens. The take-over period under the Act initially is not exceeding 5 years. This period is still not over in respect of any of the sick gardens taken over.

Contract between State Trading Corporation and CIE Noga of Geneva for sale of Sugar

4703. SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation entered into a contract with CIE Noga of Geneva between July and September, 1974 for sugar sale at a price below the then prevailing international price;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) what action is taken or proposed to be taken against the concerned officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) STC entered into a contract with CIE Noga of Geneva for sugar sale at competitive prices.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Direct Air Service between Delhi and Chandigarh

4704. SHRIMATI PARVATI DEVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to provide a direct air service between Delhi and Chandigarh because of the considerable increase in the number of tourists both Indian and foreign; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Indian Airlines operate a daily HS 742 flight between Delhi and Chandigarh as part of their Delhi-Chandigarh-Jammu-Srinagar service.

Scheduled Castes/Tribes Central Government Employees in the Ministry

4705. SHRI B. C. KAMBLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Government employees in Class I, II, III & IV in the whole Ministry belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as at the end of the years 1975, 1976 and 1977; and

(b) the dates on which Presidential Orders pertaining to reservation