

Amalgamation of Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd. and Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation

684. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Banking Commission and the National Commission on Agriculture had recommended the amalgamation of the Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd. and the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation into a single national organisation with a view to providing credit and other infrastructural facilities to the agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to effect such an amalgamation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A committee set up in the Reserve Bank of India, to review arrangements for institutional credit for agricultural and rural development, is also reviewing, *inter alia*, the structures and operations of the Agricultural Refinance and Development Corporation as also the consultancy services provided by the Agricultural Finance Corporation so as to make suitable recommendations in this regard.

Opening of Bank Branches in West Bengal

685. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of the proposals of opening bank branches in West Bengal during the next three years, year-wise; District-wise and bank-wise; and

(b) details of the bank branches opened in West Bengal, district-wise, bank-wise, during the last three years year-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). Information to the extent available is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Loans from Foreign Countries

686. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHAN-DASAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing:

(a) the present liability (in rupees) of the Government of India to each of the foreign countries from which loans have been taken;

(b) what is the total amount (in rupee value) of loans taken by India from foreign countries;

(c) what are total of loans taken and amounts repaid as part of principal amounts during the Janata Party's regime; and

(d) what, if any, is the total of interests paid by Government of India during the above period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b). The total amount of loans taken by the Government of India from foreign countries/institutions up to March 31, 1980 was Rs. 15,351.23 crores. The outstanding liability of the Government to foreign countries and institutions from which loans have been taken, as on March 31, 1980 was Rs. 12,178.42 crores. Country/institution-wise details are given in the statement.

(c) and (d). The information pertaining to the period April 1, 1977 to Dec. 31, 1979 is as follows:

	(Rs. crores)
(i) Total amount of loans taken (i.e. amount drawn)	2,394.13
(ii) Total amount repaid towards principal	1,065.68
(iii) Total amount paid towards interest	649.96