

Flow of Funds in Rural Sector

4391. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any demand was made by any State Government at the recent conference of the Eastern Zonal Finance Ministers about larger flow of funds in rural sector ;

(b) if so, details thereof ;

(c) steps to be taken by Government thereon ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d). The fifth meeting of the Regional Consultative Committee for nationalised banks for Eastern Region was held on 30-6-82 at Bhubaneswar. In the meeting, the banking developments in the Region were reviewed and the need to strengthen credit support to weaker section in the rural areas was emphasised. The implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the States of Region was also discussed. The pace of flow of institutional credit for IRDP in the States of the Region, is steadily picking up. The term loans disbursed for the Programme during 1980-81 was Rs. 32.03 crores. This had increased to Rs. 76.09 crores in 1981-82.

At the meeting, the State Governments had been assured that the credit needs of the twenty point programme beneficiaries and specially of IRDP beneficiaries will be met by the banks to the maximum extent possible. The State Governments, at the same time, were requested to ensure that the project machinery at the district level were strengthened appropriately to implement the programme according to schedule.

Appointment of Private Agents by N.T.C.

4392. SHRI DIGAMBAR SINGH : SHRI TARIQ ANWAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some subsidiaries of the National Textile Corporation (NTC) have appointed private agents to help sell their products to Government bodies, such the D.G.S.&D., Ministry of Defence ;

(b) what are the difficulties which lie in the way of his Ministry or the N.T.C. to negotiate direct with Government Departments for the sale of NTC products ; and

(c) whether he proposes to hold a Ministerial-level meeting to sort out the problems facing the sale of NTC products and save the money being paid to private agents ; and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). As a normal trade practice, the subsidiaries of the NTC have been appointing service agents to ensure expeditious inspection of goods, timely payment for supplies and to help settle disputes, if any.

Government have recently decided that in fulfilment of defence contracts for supply of olive green terrycot cloth, no service agents will be appointed by NTC.

Joint Venture Hotel Set up Abroad by Hoteliers in India

4393. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of hoteliers in India which have set up hotel

ventures abroad on their own or in collaboration with foreign concerns or Governments;

(b) the equity held by them apart from the financial outlay involved in the shape of sharing of expertise, manpower, equipment and other investment;

(c) their turnover during the 2-3 years for which figures are available with Government; and

(d) the profits, if any, repatriated to India since the inception of these ventures and what control is being exercised by Government to ensure that no part of their profits is invested by them or deposited in foreign banks without Government's or Reserve Bank's permission ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Procurement of Jute from Small Growers at fixed Price

4394. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that small growers of jute in North Bengal having no holding power are likely to perforce sell whatever they produce on the eve of Id festival and this compulsion to sell jute before Id works to the advantage of middlemen; and

(b) whether he proposes to ask the Jute Corporation of India to procure all the jute produced by the small growers at the price to be fixed by Government and thus save them from the clutches of middlemen ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Id festival, i. e. Id-ul-Fitr, fell on 23rd

July this year. Due to continued drought, arrivals were delayed this year and no jute was being offered for sale during last week of July, '82.

(b) The JCI has been authorised to start procurement of raw jute from the beginning of the new jute season, 1982-83, from the growers without delimitation of any quantity as target under price support operation.

Sluggishness in Jute Market

4395. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the stringent supply management by the jute mill industry in West Bengal has brought no relief to gunny market, in terms of easing of the months-long downwards pressure on prices;

(b) whether little has been done by the industry or Union Government to create new sources of demand by market promotion and diversification of the product base;

(c) whether one of the reasons for the sluggishness of the fibre market is the delay in Government's announcement of a statutory minimum price for jute for the current season; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to save the jute growers from the impending disaster which has been made worse by failure of timely rains in the jute-growing areas in West Bengal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The market for jute goods has not as yet picked up.

(b) Government have taken following steps to create demand both in