

next five years would need \$ 100 billions;

(b) if so, whether the Asian Development Bank has agreed to provide the amount to India;

(c) if so, whether the Finance Minister also attended the meeting with ADB held on May 12;

(d) if so, the decisions taken at the meeting; and

(e) the extent to which India's requirement has been accepted by them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) The Finance Minister in his capacity as the Governor for India, in his statement at the 30th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors for Asian Development Bank at Fukuoka, Japan, held in May 1997 highlighted India's requirement of over US\$ 100 billion during the next five years for the Infrastructure Sector.

There were no specific discussion in the meeting on any particular infrastructure project or on the funding of the full infrastructure needs by ADB.

#### **Use of Bank Account of Demise**

2650. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

SHRI I.D. SWAMI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the legal heirs of the bank account holders are not informing the bank authorities of the demise of the bank account holders in some cases and the said accounts are used by their legal heirs even after the demise of the account holders;

(b) if so, the number of cases that have come to the notice of the Government, Reserve Bank of India and the individual banks both private and public sector in the last three years; and

(c) the details thereof and the action taken thereon by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s data monitoring system does not generate the information asked for.

According to RBI, in case of Joint accounts where the man-date for operating the accounts is 'either or survivor', the surviving holder can operate the account as he is entitled to the balance of the account in the event of death of one of the joint account holder. In case of the other joint account holder (s) where the operations are allowed either jointly by the account holders or in the case of accounts operated by a single depositor no operations are to be allowed consequent on the death of the account holder. In such cases the surviving holder(s)/nominee(s)/legal holder(s) have to satisfy the bank by producing the

requisite documents viz death certificate declaration as regards names of various legal heirs, claim application succession certificate etc. from a competent Court if large amount is involved. It is incumbent for the survivors to inform the Bank about the death of the account holder.

#### **Dilute of Prudential Norms**

2651. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve bank of India have found it necessary in January, 1997 to dilute prudential norms for loan classifications and loan provisions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for diluting the prudential norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have issued a circular in January, 1997 to all commercial banks clarifying certain issues relating to income recognition, asset classification and provisioning and capital adequacy. These clarifications have been issued after discussion at the meeting of the Bank Audit Committee. The instructions contained in this circular are intended to eliminate practical difficulties and not to dilute prudential norms and loan classification and loan/loss provisions.

#### **SC's Directions on CBI**

2652. SHRI I.D. SWAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has delivered a judgement in a case of Central Bank of India last year that a course of conduct spread over sufficiently long period and involving innumerable instances is by itself a misconduct;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of officials in the private and public sector banks found involved for lapses in performance of their duties spread over a sufficiently long periods in the last three years; and

(d) the action taken against all such officials, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement delivered in 1996 in a case relating to Central Bank of India had, inter-alia, observed that in the case of a bank or any other organisation, every officer/employee is supposed to act within the limits of his authority and a bank cannot function properly and effectively if its officers and employees do not observe the prescribed norms and discipline. The Court had also held that the very act of acting beyond authority—that too a course of conduct spread over a sufficiently long period and involving innumerable instances—is by itself a misconduct.

(c) and (d) The present system of data collection by Reserve Bank of India does not generate information as asked for the Question. However, according to the information readily available, action taken against delinquent employees of public sector banks for frauds during the years 1994, 1995 and 1996 is as under:-

	1994	1995	1996
(i) No. of employees convicted	50	33	46
(ii) No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1248	1160	1207
(iii) No. of employees dismissed/discharged/removed	360	301	331

#### State Bank of Indore

2653. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI had imposed a penalty interest of more than one crore upon State Bank of Indore on account of serious negligence of officers in currency chest branches in Delhi in 1991 and 1992;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that no action has been taken till now against responsible officers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and proposed action against erring officers;

(d) whether it is a fact that officers in Delhi Branches of State Bank of Indore have purchased/discounted cheques beyond their limit/authority in 1995;

(e) if so, whether the Higher Management had not taken action against these erring officers; and

(f) the so, the reason therefor and proposed action against the Higher Officers—who are shielding these corrupt officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) According to the RBI, the penal interest recovered from State Bank of Indore for wrong/delayed reporting of currency chest transactions by its branches in Delhi during the years 1991 and 1992 amounted to Rs. 34.63 lakhs.

(b) and (c) The State Bank of Indore has reported that on investigation of above matter, the Branch Head Cashier and seven officers were found accountable out of whom four officers have been served administrative warnings, two officers have been chargesheeted and awarded a penalty of "censure" and the case of the remaining one officer is under examination by the bank. The Branch Head Cashier has also been chargesheeted and awarded a penalty of Administrative warning.

(d) to (f) State Bank of Indore has reported that all the cases involving exceeding of discretionary powers in their Delhi Branches, relate to routine business transaction

and the actions of the Branch Managers were subsequently confirmed by the competent authorities. As all the cheques were purchased in the normal course of business, for genuine business transaction, no action was considered necessary by the bank.

#### Review Indo-Nepal Pact

2654. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has represented the Union Government to review the Indo-Nepal pact to protect the interests of middle and small scale industries which may hit by the treaty's "duty free" clause; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) No representation has been received from the Government of West Bengal to review the provision for duty free import of products manufactured in Nepal, under the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Female Workers

2655. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of female workers in Coal India Limited from the date of nationalisation and as on June 30, 1997 and December 31, 1996, subsidiary-wise;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the number of female workers for the last three years;

(c) if so, rate of decline, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The number of female workers on the date of nationalisation was as follows:

BCCL	22,725
CMAL	32,452
Total:	55,177

The number of female workers as on 30.6.1997 and 31.12.1996, subsidiary-wise, is as under:

Company	No. of Female workers	
	as on 30.6.1997	as on 31.12.1996
1	2	3
ECL	9,830	9,772
BCCL	11,260	11,404