

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) As compared to the year 1994-95 the utilisation in World Bank aided projects in the Agriculture, Water Supply & Sanitation, Power Transport & Telecommunication and Urban Development sectors has shown improvement in the year 1995-96. As far as States are concerned Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh have shown better performance during the same period.

(e) The Government has already taken a number of steps to further improve project implementation. These include ensuring adequate provisioning for external aided projects, release of Additional Central Assistance as 100% additionality, advance release of ACA to the States, standardisation of bidding documents and streamlining of procurement procedures, disintermediation on flow of external aid to Central PSUs, Portfolio Rationalisation and setting up of project Monitoring Unit in the Department of Economic Affairs.

Irregularities in P.F.

4403. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of irregularities are observed in the Centrally maintained Provident Fund Accounts of employees in Indian Overseas Bank at its Central Office, Madras;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of total amount lying as on December 31, 1996 uncredited/un-reconciled in Sundry Creditors relating to Provident Fund of large number of employees, and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Indian Overseas Bank has reported that there are no such irregularities and no amount of Provident Fund of employees is lying in Sundry Creditors Accounts. However, Provident fund remittances of staff mostly relating to the months of September, 1996 to December, 1996 amounting to approximately Rs. 10.94 crores was in the process of re-conciliation and subsequent credit as on 31.12.96. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 6.03 crores has already been re-conciled and credited. The bank has further reported that the delay in re-conciliation is because of the routine time

lag needed for receipt of credits from 1450 branches all over the country and checking 26,000 credits (approximately) before crediting the correct amounts. The bank has added that it is their endeavour to reduce such delays.

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

4404. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of cotton exported out of the total production of cotton in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether more foreign exchange can be earned by exporting yarn cloth and readymade garments than that of cotton only.

(c) if so, the estimate in this regard and whether the Government have contemplated any policy to discourage the export of cotton and encourage the export of products made from it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) :

(a) The percentage of cotton exported out of the total production of cotton during the last three years is given below :

Year	%
1993-94	3.20
1994-95	0.78
1995-96	7.36

(b) to (d) While it is generally advantageous to export value added items such as yarn, cloth, made-ups and garments, export of cotton is allowed only when there is likely availability of surplus cotton after taking into consideration all relevant factors, including estimates of production, availability, requirements for domestic consumption, price trend of cotton, etc. The Government tries to balance the interests of the cotton growers as well as the consuming sectors. The ceiling for exports of cotton yarn below 41s counts was raised from 80 million Kg. to 120 million Kg. in 1996.

[English]

Smuggling of Gold

4405. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :