

Name of the State/ Union Territory	C:D Ratio
VI SOUTHERN REGION	
Andhra Pradesh	84.85
Karnataka	87.23
Kerala	59.70
Tamil Nadu	100.42
Pondicherry	54.96
Lakshadweep	17.58
ALL INDIA	65.95

253 Bank
Ban on New Appointments

2516. SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to impose ban on new appointments in the Government offices and banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) There is no proposal to impose ban on new appointments in Government Offices and Public Sector Banks.

(b) Does not arise.

[English] 253

Re-opening of Branches of Indian Investment Centres

2517. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for closure of the overseas branches of the Indian Investment Centre;

(b) whether the Government propose to re-open these branches;

(c) if so, when;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government also propose to open the branches of the Indian Investment Centre within the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) The Indian Investment Centre's offices abroad were closed as part of a larger design to reduce bureaucratization and to provide integrated services to NRIs/investors.

(b), (c) and (d) Such a proposal may be considered, if required for the successful implementation of the Industrial Policy of the Government.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

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Amalgamation of Regional Rural Bank

2518. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amalgamate all the regional rural banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Each Regional Rural Bank is a separate legal entity under the Regional Rural Bank's Act, 1976 and operates within the specified local limits. The Government desire to maintain the separate identity and character of such banks.

Revamping of Export Processing Zone

2519. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA
SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN } :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade has called for revamping the export processing zones to make free trade zones an effective instrument of export promotion as reported in the 'Economic Times' of July 16, 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve fiscal and monetary incentives and various other facilities at export processing zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in its Market Survey conducted for the Kandla Free Trade Zone in Jan. '90 had outlined some suggestions for the accelerated development of the Zone which included, inter-alia encouraging trade with USSR on rupee payment basis, lowering of value addition norms, allowing trading activities in the Zone, automatic broad banding and the setting up of a Central Authority for EPZs and 100% Export Oriented Units.

(c) These and other suggestions are under consideration.

Private Sector Participation in Defence Production and Exports

2520. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA
SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH
SHRI CHETAN P. S. CHAUHAN }

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "PEC to involve private sector in defence exports" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated July 19, 1991;

(b) if so, whether the Projects and Equipment Corporation of India appointed by the Union Government for promoting and exporting defence related stores has decided to encourage private sector participation in defence production and exports;

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the criteria and terms and conditions of their appointment;

(d) whether the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 is also proposed to be amended to tap the defence export market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The PEC offers assistance to private sector units, including those engaged in production of defence related stores, in their exports.

(c) The PEC works out individual agreements with manufacturing concerns for the export ventures on a case to case basis.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

256 **National Highways**

2521. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI
SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH }

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the names and length of National Highways in the country and the States through which they pass; and

(b) the names and length of State Highways under consideration for conversion into National Highways, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) A statement is enclosed.

(b) There is no proposal at present to declare new national Highways. The question of further additions to the N.H. grid would be taken only after finalisation of the 8th Five Year Plan.