

up so far under the scheme; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to completely mop up black money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Housing Bank (NHB) has launched on October 1, 1991, a Scheme to mop up Black Money known as "National Housing Bank (Voluntary Deposits) Scheme, 1991".

In terms of the scheme notified, a person may deposit an amount, minimum being Rs. 10,000/-thereafter in multiples of Rs. 1,000/-, in any of the designated branches of the 9 banks appointed for the purpose. 40% of the amount so deposited is to be credited to a Special Fund constituted for the purpose. The fund shall be utilised for the purpose of financing slum clearance and low cost housing for the poor. The balance 60% of the deposit may be withdrawn by the depositor without any lock-in period by submitting an application in the prescribed format. The 60% amount is payable to the depositor by way of a crossed account payee cheque. The designated branches shall also issue a certificate of withdrawal in respect of the 60% amount withdrawn by the depositor. The depositor is extended certain immunities under the Voluntary Deposits (Immunities & Exemptions) Act, 1991. In terms of the said Act, the person making deposit under the scheme shall not be required to disclose the nature and source of the deposit; no enquiry or investigation shall be initiated against the depositor merely because he had made the deposit; and the fact that the deposit has been made by him shall also be inadmissible as evidence in any proceedings relating to any offence except under the Indian Penal Code, Narcotics Protection and Psychotropic Substances Act, Terrorist &

Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act and Prevention of Corruption Act.

(c) to (e). NHB has reported that as per reports submitted by various banks, the amount received under the Scheme till 17th November, 1991 stood at Rs. 19. 57 crores.

(f) Government is seized of the problem of existence of black money in the economy and takes various steps from time to time to overcome it.

Setting up of Commodity Management Board

426. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are examining a proposal to set up Commodity Management Board for export and import of agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, whether a final decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the date by which the Commodity Management Board is likely to be set up and the details of its proposed set up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d). There is such a proposal under consideration in the Ministry of Agriculture.

[*Translation*]

One-Rank-One-Pension Scheme

427. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: