

was raised to Rs.10.00 for adult and Rs.5.00 for children during the recently held India International Trade Fair' 96.

(c) ITPO is required to undertake its trade promotional activities in India and abroad as well as maintenance of its infrastructural facilities on self financing basis. Hence, it was felt necessary to raise the entry fee.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

World Bank Assistance to Andhra Pradesh for Rural Areas Supply

3275. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has provided any loan for water supply and environmental sanitation projects especially for the tribal and rural areas of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, details of the project sanctioned and the amount expected to be allocated project-wise out of the funds received from the World Bank.

(c) the details of implementing agencies of these project;

(d) whether the Government have approved any project for rural area of Guntur district of A.P. for providing drinking water out of the World Bank help; and

(e) if so, the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Do not arise.

Loans to Agricultural and Industrial Sectors

3276. SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans provided by the Public Sector Banks to Industry and Agriculture sectors separately during the last three years in Punjab; and

(b) the estimated requirement of loans of agriculture in Punjab and the steps taken by the Government to allocate sufficient funds therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Outstanding advances of public sector banks to agriculture and industry during the last three years in Punjab, as furnished by Punjab National Bank, the convenor bank for

State Level Bankers' Committee of Punjab, were as under :

Category of Outstanding Advances	(Rs. crore)		
	March 1994	March 1995	March 1996
1. Agriculture	1464	1622	1855
2. Small Scale Industries & Cottage Industries	1288	1515	1882
3. Other (including medium & large scale industries)	3642	4640	4986
Total	6394	7777	8733

Punjab National Bank has further reported that the estimated requirement of loans for agriculture in Punjab is Rs.1809 crore as projected in Annual Credit Plan 1996-97, which is expected to be met by participating banks.

Regulation for Foreign Exchange

3277. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the details of the special regulation of RBI and Ministry of Finance relating to foreign exchange allowances and expenditure on private and official visit of the Union Minister, Minister of State Governments, Governors, Chief Ministers, MP's and IAS/IPS/IFS officials?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Government officials (including Minister; and Members of Government delegations going abroad are released foreign exchange on the basis of per diem rates stipulated by the Government (i.e. the Ministry of External Affairs) which vary from country to country. They are also entitled for release of foreign exchange towards personal incidentals @ US \$ 50 - per day, Subjects to being minimum US \$ 500/- and a maximum of US \$ 1,500/-.

VIPs State legislators, officials of Central or any State Government who travel at the invitation from abroad on full hospitality i.e. where no State funding is involved for either the journey or stay abroad are entitled for release of foreign exchange towards incidental express @ US \$ 50/- per day for the duration of the stay abroad, subject to a maximum of 30 days.

While going on private visits abroad they are entitled to draw foreign exchange under basic Travel Quota which is US \$ 2,000/- per annum.

Incentives offered to NRIs

3278. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the incentives offered to NRIs for foreign

direct investment in India are comparable with incentives offered by other Asian countries to their people settled in foreign countries;

(b) whether the contribution of NRIs to the total direct investment has been very poor as compared with investment made in other countries by their non-residents;

(c) if so, the reasons for poor response by NRIs; and

(d) the steps being taken to encourage investment by NRIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Government constantly review the policy relating to NRI investments to make it competitive and to provide adequate incentives and facilities to NRIs. With this end in view, Government have taken a number of steps to boost NRI investment. In certain selected sectors, 100% NRI equity is permissible with full repatriation benefits. As a result of all these efforts, NRI investment is steadily increasing ever since the announcement of New Industrial Policy in July, 1991 and till 30.9.96, investment proposals worth Rs.24171.62 crores approximately have been approved.

Review of Projects funded by World Bank

3279. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World bank has decided to undertake a review of the projects funded by it;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of these projects; and

(c) the reasons for the above decision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Project monitoring is an on-going exercise conducted throughout the year so as to identify the bottlenecks in the implementation of the projects and to take immediate corrective steps. This exercise is carried out by the Department of Economic Affairs, line Ministries and State Governments. The World Bank also sends its missions essentially to review and monitor the projects jointly with the implementing agencies, the State Governments and Government of India. Besides, there is also a mechanism to jointly review the performance of the World Bank aided projects and portfolio, annually, in order to identify problem relating to poorly performing projects. Wherever the performances of a project is found unsatisfactory, decisions about the cancellations of loan/credits, partially or fully, are taken in consultation among the concerned project implementing authorities, Government of India and the World Bank.

As a follow-up to the meeting between Finance Minister and the President, World Bank, Central Ministries and State Governments, with a large number

of World Bank aided projects, have been asked to set up a single point Project Monitoring Authority for intensive supervision of the projects. This will be combined with joint semi-annual reviews by Ministry of Finance and World Bank to ensure that aid-utilisation improves.

IMF and World Bank

3280. DR. ASIM BALA :

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the India is on the verge of losing its seats in the Board of IMF and World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trade-with Thailand

3281. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India-Thailand seek to boost bilateral trade to over \$ 2 billion by the end of 1997;

(b) if so, the measures being taken or proposed to taken to achieve the target;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to establish a business centre in Bangkok to promote the export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) During the Second meeting of India-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation held in New Delhi on 4-5 November, 1993 both sides had agreed that it would be appropriate to have a two-way trade target of US \$2 billion to be achieved preferably by 1997.

(b) Various measures have been taken to promote bilateral trade between India and Thailand which include holding of regular meeting of the Joint Trade Committee between the two countries exchange of business delegations, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions in each other's countries and continuous interaction at official levels to sort out various operational problems in free flow of trade.

(c) and (d). Indian Mission in Thailand had proposed for establishment of a business centre in Bangkok. However, due to financial constraints the proposal could not be agree to.