

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that as per the latest data available, the amount of profit earned by North Malabar Grameen Bank and South Malabar Gramin Bank was Rs. 196.90 lakhs and Rs. 75.64 lakhs, respectively during the year 1988-89. The figures for 1989-90 have not yet become available. It has further reported that both the banks do not have any accumulated losses.

(b) and (c). NABARD has reported that as on 30.09.1989, both these banks did not have any licences pending for opening of their branches.

T.V. Documentary "Democracy and Money Power"

7428. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a TV documentary entitled "Democracy and Money Power" was produced by the Media Workshop as per contract with the Doordarshan;

(b) if so, whether the said TV documentary has been approved for telecast;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the producer has been paid the entire amount due to the company which produced the above documentary; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (e). A programme on the misuse of Money and Power during elections, produced by Media Workshop and

commissioned by Doordarshan, was held back by Doordarshan as its telecast would have infringed the guidelines issued by the Election Commission. However, while part payment to the producer of the programme has already been made, orders have been issued to make the full payment as per terms of the contract.

Incentives for Hotels In Darjeeling and Sikkim

7429. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide financial assistance and incentives etc. for establishment of hotels in Darjeeling and Sikkim region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been/are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) to (c). Government does not provide financial assistance for establishment of hotels directly. However, financial institutions such as Industrial Finance Corporation of India, Tourism Finance Corporation of India and several financial institutions at the State level provide financial assistance for construction of hotels.

New hotels established upto December, 1993 in hilly area above 3000 ft. of sea level are eligible for exemption from Expenditure Tax and tax concessions upto 50 per cent of the income for a period of 10 years.

Department of Tourism provides one per cent interest subsidy on loan amount of Rs. 75 lakhs for four and five star category and three per cent to one, two and three star

category on the entire loan amount for loans sanctioned by IFCI, TFCI and State Financial Corporation for approved hotel projects.

Recruitment in Rourkela Steel Plant

7430. SHRID. AMAT: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are irregularities in the matter of providing employment and promotion to the local people in Rourkela Steel Plant; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up Mini Steel Plants in Karnataka

7431. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up some mini steel plants during the Eighth plan period;

(b) whether any such mini steel plant is proposed to be set up in Karnataka; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b). At present there is no proposal to set up new mini-steel plants in the country except in certain hilly and backward regions in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Exchange Value of Rupee

7432. SHRISANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exchange value of rupee vis-a-vis major World currencies fell more steeply in the Seventh Plan than in the Sixth Plan;

(b) if so, its decline in value against Special Drawing Rights in the Sixth Plan as compared to the Seventh Plan;

(c) the reasons for such precipitate fall in the Seventh Plan; and

(d) the steps being taken to arrest its further fall during the Eight Plan?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). The annual average exchange rates of the Rupee against the SDR, US \$, UK £, DM and Yen at the end of the Sixth and Seventh Plans are indicated below:

(Rupees per unit of foreign currencies)

	<i>SDR</i>	<i>US \$</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>DM</i>	<i>Yen</i>
1984-85	7.9328	7.8886	14.8668	3.9877	0.0487
1989-90	21.3684	16.6492	26.9179	9.0922	0.1166