

"The Head Office of the Small Industries Bank shall be at Lucknow or at such place as the Central Government may by Notification specify".

(d) and (e). The Government is not proposing to change the location of the Head Office of SIDBI from Lucknow.

[English]

Internal Debt Trap

8291 SHRI CHITTA BASU Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the States have been caught in the internal debt trap,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) State Governments have been meeting their debt repayment liability mainly out of fresh borrowings. The Ninth Finance Commission has reviewed the debt position of the States as on 31.3.1989 and recommended a number of debt relief measures including re-scheduling/writing off of certain loans outstanding against the State Governments, elongation of the maturity period of future Central loans for State Plans, etc. Action taken by the Government on the recommendations of the Commission has been indicated in the explanatory memorandum which has already been laid on the Table of the House along with the report of the Commission.

T.V. Viewers in Midnapore District of West Bengal

8292. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that T.V. viewers in Midnapore District of West Bengal are unable to receive the local Bengali telecasts from Calcutta and can receive only the National Programmes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c). Linkage of low power transmitters (LPTs) through microwave circuits to the respective State Capital Kendras for relay of Regional services is not considered cost-effective. Low Power transmitters (LPTs) at Kharagpur and Midnapur, like others LPTs in the State, therefore, relay programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Delhi via satellite.

[Translation]

Ceiling on Public Deposits taken by Housing Loan Financing Institutions

8293. SHRIMATI USHA VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ceiling on public deposits taken by the housing loan financing institutions has been fixed for the first time from 1 April, 1989 under non-banking directives issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether financial safety has not been provided to housing loan financing institutions under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987; and

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by Government to remove the ceiling limit?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the ceiling on quantum of public deposits to be accepted by Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) was fixed with effect from April 1, 1989. The fixation of ceiling was considered necessary as public deposits are unsecured and as such restricted access was not considered desirable. The instructions issued by National Housing Bank (NHB) on June 26, 1989 are similar to those of RBI, containing regulatory provision relating to ceiling on quantum of deposits, period, maximum interest rate, brokerage payable, maintenance of liquid assets, compliance of advertisement rules, submission of returns and balance sheets. These regulatory measures are intended to safeguard the interest of depositors. Removal of the ceiling on public deposits would not be prudent as unlimited, unsecured public deposits could put these companies into a financial bind.

[English]

Pension to Employees of Erstwhile Bank of Baghelkhand

8294 **SHRI SUKHENDRA SINGH:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Bank of Baghelkhand, and undertaking of erstwhile Rewa State Government (now in Madhya Pradesh), after abolition of the State, was wholly owned by Union Government and thus its assets, liabilities and obligations rested with Union Government

(b) whether the Central Government civil pension rules were applicable to the pensioners of the Bank of Baghelkhand after retirement.

(c) whether minimum pension as applicable to Central Government pensioners

was paid to the pensioners of the Bank of Baghelkhand upto December, 1988 and thereafter minimum pension was reduced to the amount applicable to the pensioners of the State Government of Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Influx of Tourists in Southern Part

8295 **SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK:** Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that due to continuous disturbances in the Northern and North-Eastern region in the country, there is influx of the domestic and foreign tourists to Southern and other parts of the country,

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to meet the influx in the Southern India and the special arrangements made for the provision of basic amenities for the tourists there, and

(c) whether this changed trend will have any effect on the foreign exchange earnings and if so, the extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) There is a growth in the domestic and foreign tourist traffic to Southern States. It is due to the combined effect of several factors, including promotional efforts for Southern parts of the country.

(b) Improvement of tourism infrastruc-