

**Cases Referred to BIFR**

1313. SHRI J. CHITHARANIAN:  
SHRI GAYA SINGH:  
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases referred to BIFR since its inception in 1987;
- (b) the number of those out of the above which were registered and those which were declined registration alongwith their grounds; and
- (c) how many of the registered cases revived so far were dismissed as non-maintainable and how many are still under the revival process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) has reported that 3,902 companies have made references as on 30.9.1999.

(b) 2779 cases of Sick Companies were registered with BIFR and 1102 references have been declined registration. Registration is declined where the reference do not conform to the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(c) BIFR has reported that as on 30.9.1999, 1821 cases of the sick companies were disposed off. Out of these, 498 cases were dismissed as non-maintable. Rehabilitation schemes were sanctioned by the BIFR in 649 cases and 958 cases of the sick companies were pending with the BIFR at various stages during the period.

**Agreements between India and Australia**

1314. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and Australia are signing two agreements to cement trade and economic ties; and
- (b) if so, the details of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No such agreements are under consideration for signing with Australia.

(b) Does not arise.

**Urban Co-operative Banks in Assam**

1315. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Urban Co-operative Banks in Assam, particularly, the Silchar Urban Co-operative Bank which has been rendering yeoman's services to the poor in Barak Valley of Assam has become sick due to non-availability of funds from the State as well as the Central Government.

(b) whether the State and Central Government have received proposals for revival of this bank and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government thereon; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to help this bank to come out of financial crisis so that it could return the deposits of the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that out of the twelve (12) primary urban co-operative banks (PCBs) in the State of Assam, four PCBs including the Silchar Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Silchar have been classified: as 'weak banks'. The financial position of the aforesaid bank is precarious due to which it is not complying with the requirement of Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (as applicable to co-operative societies) in maintaining a net worth of not less than Rs. 1.00 lakh. RBI had reviewed the financial position of the said bank and had come to the conclusion that its chances for turnaround are remote and its continuance would not be in the interest of the depositors and public. Hence, the said bank has been served with notices to explain why their licence to carry on banking business should not be cancelled and the bank be liquidated.

(b) No proposal for revival of the said bank has been received by