

Priority sector credit to minorities in 41 identified districts

Period March	year ended	No. of Accounts (in lakhs)	Balance outstanding (in Rs. crores)
1996		12.71	1313.31
1997		13.23	1558.19
1998		13.02	1753.61*

* Provisional (c) to (e) Do not arise.

First and second generation reforms

2068. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) what has been the outcome of 'First Generation Reforms';
- (b) what are the objectives of the 'Second Generation Reforms; and
- (c) how Government propose to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The economic reforms initiated in the last few years have had a favourable impact in terms of acceleration in overall growth of the economy, build up of a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position, lower rate of inflation and a substantial inflow of foreign capital.

(b) and (c) The goal of economic reforms is "faster growth with employment and equity". To this end, the steps being contemplated include the setting up of an Expenditure Commission, tax reforms, reforms of banks and financial institutions, a programme for rural connectivity, a National Health Policy, a water policy, renewed thrust on information technology and promoting efficiency of investments in the infrastructure sectors.