

lars in each district has to be given to the lead bank of that district. The Lead Bank after consolidating the lists received from all banks submits it to the District Collector for recommendations and onward transmission to RBI through the concerned State Government. Under the Branch Licensing Policy (1990-95), opening of branches of Public Sector Banks is a continuous process and hence it is not possible to project the number of branches that will be opened in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu during the current year.

1051. [Transferred to the 9th December 1991]

World Bank advice against soft options

1052. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank had given any advice against soft options during Aid India Consortium meet at Paris; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b) In the 1990-91 country Economic Memorandum (prepared by the World Bank), the World Bank has observed, "India no longer has soft options. Trade-offs between cutting expenditure and raising taxes and between restraining defence expenditures and solving spending on social programs and/or infrastructural investment will require hard choices. India's pledge to give "human face" to adjustment and reform offers a unique challenge to donors. If India is prepared to follow through on the hard choices, the donor community should be prepared to strengthen its support significantly". The Country Economic Memorandum is prepared by the World Bank for facilitating consultation at Aid India consortium meetings.

Uniform sales tax on Commodities

1053. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a policy sales tax on commodities are being made uniform; and

(b) whether the list of declared goods under Fourth schedule will be expanded to include Jaggery, Chillies, tea powder, kerosene, coconut oil, arcanut, cement, medicines, soaps, animal feeds, edible oils and cereals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Sales-tax is a State subject under the Constitution. Therefore, policy is decided by the respective States. In the Chief Ministers' Conference held in February, 1989 it was decided that the States and Union Territories would adopt the minimum floor level rates in respect of the 29 identified items recommended by the Committee of the Sales-Tax Commissioners.

(b) There is no proposal to expand the list of declared goods.

Fraud cases in UCO Bank Chandigarh

1054. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-

DRAKANT BHANDARE;
SHRI BEKAL UTAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the Tribune of September 26, 1991, captioned "Crores missing from Bank" in relation to various frauds and embezzlement of the UCO Bank (Sector 17B) Chandigarh Branch;

(b) if so, whether any inquiries have been conducted into the affairs of this bank;

(c) the number of frauds and embezzlement cases detected; and

(d) the details of action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) UCO Bank has reported that 14 cases of fraudulent payments using forged drafts totalling Rs. 21,86,809,30 and one case of withdrawal against wrong debit involving Rs. 45,000/- only were detected in March 1990 at its Sector 17-B Branch, Chandigarh. The Bank has further reported that in connection with these payments the CBI registered a regular case on 28-11-90 against 3 Bank employees and 6 outsiders. UCO Bank has placed 4 employees under suspension.

Insurance at state expense

1055. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI BEKAJ UTSAHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under Government consideration for providing minimum insurance cover to every person against injury or death in a road accident, at state expense, even in case where it is a hit and run affair; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) and (b) There is no such scheme run on State expenses. However, victims of Hit and Run cases, against injury or death in a road accident, are compensated out of a Fund known as 'Solutium Fund' set up under the Motor Vehicles Act which is maintained and run by the General Insurance Corporation of India through its four subsidiary companies. The compensation payable in the event of death is Rs. 8,500/- and in the case of grievous hurt, it is Rs. 2,000/-.

उत्तर प्रदेश में बैंकों के विरुद्ध शिकायतें

1056. श्री ईश इत यादव: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को विगत पांच वर्षों में उत्तर प्रदेश ऋणों की संजरी और माफी के संबंध में आजमगढ़, मऊ, गाजीपुर, जौनपुर और मुलतानपुर में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों से की जा रही अनियमितताओं के संबंध में कोई शिकायत प्राप्त हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस मामले में कोई छात्रवीन कराया है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका क्या परिणाम निकला है;

(ङ) इस संबंध में कितने अधिकारी दोषी पाये गये हैं; और

(च) उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्रवाई की गयी है या किये जाने का विचार है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री इलबीर सिंह): (क) से (च) सरकार तथा भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश आजमगढ़, गाजीपुर, जौनपुर, मऊ और मुलतानपुर सहित देश के से विभिन्न भागों से ऋणों की संजरी, वितरण और ऋणों की माफी से संबंधित प्राप्त शिकायतों और राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा कथित रूप से बरती जाने वाली अनियमितताओं को सरकारी क्षेत्र के संबंधित बैंक के साथ उपकारी कार्रवाई करने के लिए उठाया जाता है। जहां तक अशोध्य ऋणों को बढ़ते खाते डालने और हानियां तथा समझौता प्रस्तावों का संबंध है भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने बैंकों, को एसे मामलों का तेजी से निपटारा करने के लिए अपने विभिन्न अधिकारियों को शक्तियां प्रदायोजित करने के लिए कहा है। बैंक अपनी शाखाओं का आधिकारिक अन्तरालों पर निरीक्षण करते हैं। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक बैंकों का निरीक्षण भी करता है। इन निरीक्षणों के