

11.24 As the above three groups are not of equal importance for our purpose, separate weightage was given to 'indicators' in each group. All the Social 'Indicators' were given a weightage of 3 points each, Educational 'Indicators' a weightage of 2 points each and Economic 'Indicators' a weightage of one point each. Economic in addition to Social and Educational Indicators, were considered important as they directly flowed from social and educational backwardness. This also helped to highlight the fact that socially and educationally backward classes are economically backward also.

11.25 It will be seen that from the values given to each Indicator, the total score adds upto 22. All these 11 Indicators were applied to all the castes covered by the survey for a particular State. As a result of this application, all castes which had a score of 50 per cent (i.e. 11 points) or above were listed as socially and educationally backward and the rest were treated as 'advanced'.

12.18 After giving a good deal of thought to these difficulties the Commission has evolved the following rough and ready criteria for identifying non-Hindu OBCs:—

- (i) All untouchables converted to any non-Hindu religion; and
- (ii) Such occupational communities which are known by the name of their traditional hereditary occupation and whose Hindu counterparts have been included in the list of Hindu OBCs, (Examples: Dhobi, Teli, Dheemar, Nai, Gujar, Kumhar, Lohar, Darji, Badhai etc).

Permission to NRIs for selling gold to Reserve Bank of India

1369. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI
MEHTA:
SHRI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NRIs would be permitted to sell gold to Reserve Bank of India in future, if so, would it be at international price and in Indian rupee;

(b) whether Government are aware that the option of gold selling to Reserve Bank of India by NRI would discourage them to deposit dollars in India Bank; and

(c) what are the interest rate of IMF and World Bank for short, medium and long term loans and what are the rates for NRI deposits of similar range?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):
(a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(c) The interest rates of IMF are determined from time to time depending on the prevailing SDR interest rates, with certain adjustments. Currently the rate is 8.31 per cent per annum.

The world Bank new variable lending rate linked to cost of borrowings for projects for the semester ending June, 1991 was 7.73 per cent per annum.

The present interest rates for FCNR deposits are as under:—

Currency	6 months	1 year	2 year	3 year
Pound Sterling	13.25	13.25	13.25	13.25
US Dollars	8.50	8.00	8.50	9.00
Deutsche Mark	10.00	10.25	10.50	10.50
Japanese	8.50	8.50	8.50	8.50