

Revival of Indian Folk Culture and Arts

†194. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to indifferent attitude of government most of Indian traditional folk cultures are vanishing/disappearing;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to formulate any concrete policy to revive the Indian folk art;

(c) whether it is also a fact that due to fall in the number of tourists on account of terrorism the folk artists of Rajasthan are on the verge of starvation; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government to keep the Indian folk cultures alive and to save the artists from starvation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Culture, Government of India supports traditional folk art and culture through seven zoanl Cultural Centres. The Ministry of Culture also has a Scheme for promotion and dissemination of tribal/folk art and culture. Under this scheme financial assistance is provided to voluntary organizations and individuals engaged in the preservation and promotion of tribal/folk art. This scheme covers the entire country.

(c) and (d) Government of India in the Department of Tourism have informed that there has been a decline of about 20% in foreign tourist arrivals in the months of September and October, 2001 as compared to the same period of the year 2000. However, state-wise tourist arrival figures for this period are not available.

Supervision over Cooperative Banks

195. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite warnings by Registrar of Cooperative Societies and RBI's inspection report March, 2001, the Krushi Bank Management could withdraw funds beyond prescribed norms leading to run on the bank; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the corrective action and effective supervision proposed over the cooperative banks and deterrent action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it is not aware whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Andhra Pradesh had given any warnings to the Krushi co-operative Bank Ltd., Hyderabad against repayment of deposits. However, based on the findings of a quick scrutiny of the books of accounts of the bank in March 2001, RBI had issued certain directions in June 2001 to the said bank to improve its operations, especially in credit management. On receipt of information about the liquidity problems with the bank in August, 2001, RBI had issued a requisition to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Andhra Pradesh to supersede the Board of Management of the bank, invoking the provisions of Section 115-B of the Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies Act. Consequently an order was issued by the Registrar to supersede the Board of Management of the bank and appointed an Administrator to take charge. RBI has also filed a criminal complaint in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at Hyderabad against the Board of Directors and the Chief Executive Officer of the bank.

Since there was no proposal for revival of the bank or its merger with a strong unit, Government of Andhra Pradesh approached RBI in October 2001 for permission to wind up the bank. RBI had granted this permission under Section 115-B of the Andhra Pradesh Co-operative Societies Act. The Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Andhra Pradesh has since issued orders for liquidation of the bank of 16th October, 2001.

Increase in interest rate on farmer's loan

196. **PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NABARD proposed to increase the rate of interest on the loan given to the farmers; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and its overall impact on the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is an apex agency providing refinance facilities to banks on their lending to agriculture and allied activities. It does not provide loans to farmers directly. The decision to fix the rate of interest at farmers'/