

(d) The list of companies that are regular in repayments is attached as Statement.

(e) Companies which are prompt in their repayment obligations get a subsidy of 1.25 per cent on the interest rate in the case of indigenous trawlers and 0.5 per cent in the case of imported trawlers as per the loan agreement.

(f) No such proposal is under consideration.

Statement

List of companies which are regular in repayments

1. Pron Magnate Limited (Assisted by the SDFC as well as SCICI).
2. Tamil Nadu Fisheries Development Corporation.
3. Matsyika Exports Limited.
4. Nekkanti Sea Foods Limited.
5. G. P. Marines Products Limited.
6. Navbharat Ferro Alloys Limited.

Norms for grant of loan for economic development of minority communities by Gramin banks

923. SHRI MAULANA ASAD MADANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the norms followed by Gramin Banks in the country for grant of loan for the economic development of Minority communities; and

(b) what is the percentage of loan granted to the members of minority communities by the Basaitha and Palli branches of Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, a subsidiary unit of the Central Bank of India (Bihar)?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVADY SINGH): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

(NBARD) have reported that while there are no separate policies to grant loan for the economic development of minority communities in Gramin Banks. Regional Rural Banks have been advised to set up a special cell to monitor the flow of credit to minority communities and to review the progress made in dispensing credit at the meetings of District Level Coordination and State Level Bankers' Committees.

(b) Central Bank of India, sponsor bank of Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, have reported that the percentage share of minority communities in total advances granted by Basaitha and Palli branches of Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank as at the end of September, 1990 stood at 8.50 per cent and 23.70 per cent respectively.

Pending cases in High Courts in the country

924. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of constitutional, criminal, civil, matrimonial, revenue and other cases at present pending in each High Court, of the country, category-wise; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take to clear the arrears of pending cases in the High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The Judge strength has been increased from time to time. Procedural improvements and modifications to speed-up disposal of cases have been made. The Courts are taking various steps such as grouping of cases involving common questions of law, giving priority to cases requiring of law, giving constitution of specialised benches, etc. The

various recommendations contained in the report of the Arrears' Committee (Malimath Committee) which went into the problem of arrears in the High Courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, Central Ministries and all the High Courts.

Boarding and lodging expenses for senior managerial employees of companies

925. SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) -whether it is a fact that under Rule 6D(2) of the Income-tax Rules, only Rs. 200/- is allowable towards Hotel Expenses per day to the highest paid employees of a company in places such as Bombay, Delhi and Calcutta while travelling outside headquarters;

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that the said amount is found insufficient towards reasonable lodging and boarding expenses; and

(c) whether Government propose to revise the ceiling fixed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The object of prescribing monetary ceilings under Rule 6D of the Income-tax Rules, 1962 is to discourage ostentatious and excessive business expenditure. Therefore, these ceilings are not always related to the expenses which a person may choose to incur. Such monetary ceilings are, however, reviewed as and when considered necessary.

Setting up of new steel plants

926. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for setting up new steel plants; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) what was the total quantity of iron ore produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise and the quantity used for steel making?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAI PATIL): (a) Proposals for setting up Steel Plants at Vija-yanagar in Karnataka and Daitari in Orissa have been under consideration of the Government. Final decision on implementation of these projects would depend upon the availability of funds in the VIII plan period.

(b) The quantity of iron ore produced and quantity consumed in the country during 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90 and April to August 1990 in iron and steel making is given below: —

(Quantity in million tonnes)

Year	Production	Domestic Consumption
1987-88 •	49.0	19.0
1988-89..	48.9	19.4
1989-90..	49.5	20.7
1990-91 (April-August)	18.9	8.02

Loss suffered by SAIL due to poor performance of handling agents at Delhi and Kanpur

927. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Steel Authority of India Ltd. are incurring losses due to the poor performance of the present handling agents at Delhi and Kanpur;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps are being taken to appoint new handling agents at these places, and