

### Malpractices among Employees of Cotton Corporation of India

967. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding malpractices among the employees of Cotton Corporation of India in the sale of cotton seed involving crores of rupees; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken to curb malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) While no specific complaint has been received by the Government in the recent past, President, Northern India Small Scale Cotton Factory Association had *inter-alia*, complained about sale of cotton seed at lower rates. This was investigated by Vigilance Officers of the Corporation, but no *prima-facie* case was established. However, the Corporation has streamlined the procedure for the disposal of cotton seed to ensure that such malpractices are avoided.

### Aid for Sericulture Development

968. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:  
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of aid given for sericulture development in traditional and non-traditional states alongwith the Statewise break up during the last three years, yearwise; and

(b) whether there is any external aid involved if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) Statewise allocations for development of sericulture are made by the Planning Commission on the basis of Annual Plan proposals submitted by concerned State Sericulture Departments. However, in order to sup-

plement the efforts of State Sericulture Depts., Central Silk Board has also been implementing schemes/programmes for Sericulture development under the Central Sector. A statement showing State-wise break up of Central allocations for implementation of these schemes/programmes during the last 3 years is attached as an Annexure [See Appendix CL, Annexure No. 50]

(b) Yes, Sir. The following Projects are being implemented with assistance from Swiss Development Co-operation (SDC).

(i) Mulberry Sericulture Development Project in Tamil Nadu & Andhra Pradesh envisaging a total external aid of Rs. 230.93 lakhs.

(ii) Phase II of Inter-State Tasar Project in Orissa & Maharashtra envisaging a total external aid of Rs. 269 lakhs.

### Reopening of Completed Tax Assessments of the Indian Express Group of Companies

969. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:  
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is reported that following the recent raids on the Indian Express Group of Companies by the Income Tax Authorities the completed tax assessment of the companies have been reopened by order from the assessment year 1972-73 onwards; and

(b) if so, what proceedings have been launched against the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) The completed assessments relating to certain assessment years in the cases of three concerns of the Indian Express Group have been reopened by the concerned Assessing officers, under section 147(a) of the Income-tax Act, by issue of notices under section

148 of the said Act in March, 1989, as per the details given below:

Name of the concern	Assessment years
1. M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.	1973-74 to 1980-81
2. M/s. Express Traders	1976-77 to 1979-80
3. M/s. Express Newspapers Ltd., Madras	1972-73 to 1979-80

These reassessment proceedings were initiated independent of and not as a sequel to the searches conducted on the Indian Express Group, in March 1989.

#### Role of Regional Rural Banks in Rural Development

970. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Regional Rural Banks are starved of deposits and are thus unable to play their intended role in rural development;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to attract more deposits in these banks;

(c) what is the deposit mobilisation record of these banks for the last five years;

(d) what are the reasons which prevent Government from offering a higher rate of interest on deposits with R.R.Bs

as a measure of rural development and improvement of the lot of the rural investors; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to merge the R.R.Bs with the public sector commercial banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) (b) and (d) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that there has been a steady increase not only of total aggregate deposits of regional rural banks (RRBs) but also in average deposits per RRB and per branch.

Regional Rural Banks have been permitted to offer interest of half per cent more than that is given by the commercial banks.

(c) The total aggregate deposits of the RRBs as at the end of December during last five years are set out below:—

Year	Amount of deposits (Rs. in lakhs)	Growth over previous year
1983	67785	35%
1984	95997	42%
1985	128562	34%
1986	171494	33%
1987	230582	34%