

(b) if so, what are the details of such measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) At the Aid India Consortium meeting convened by World Bank in Paris in June 1989, Member appreciated the progress achieved by Government of India in reducing the budgetary deficit. Government has initiated several measures to contain budgetary deficit within prudent limit. These includes measures to maintain the buoyancy of tax revenue collection, prevent evasion of taxes and contain the growth of low priority and non-developmental expenditure.

Bank Loans to Farmers in West Bengal

1982. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about Rs. 12,000 crores are handled in West Bengal by about 3000 branches of commercial banks in the State;

(b) whether it is also a fact that farmers get only Rs. 12 crore from the banks out of this amount; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) reported that as at the end of December, 1988 there were 3790 branches of commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks functioning in West Bengal. The aggregate deposits with these branches stood at Rs. 14206.51 crores as on the last Friday of Dec., 1988 while their outstanding advances were Rs. 7152.21 crores giving a Credit Deposit Ratio of 50.34 per cent.

(b) and (c) According to information available from RBI, the outstanding advances of scheduled commercial banks to Agriculture in West Bengal has increased from Rs. 368.00 crores as on the last

Friday of December, 1985 to Rs. 421.23 crores as on the last Friday of December, 1986 and further to Rs. 449.45 crores as on the last Friday of June, 1987 (latest available).

Problems faced by Jute Industry

1983. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that jute industry in our country has been ailing since long;

(b) if so, what are the basic reasons for such sustained ailment; and

(c) what remedial steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUM. SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The Jute Industry has been passing through a difficult period for the last several years mainly on account of wide disparity between cost of production and selling prices and competition from synthetics and Bangladesh. The jute mills are continuing to face liquidity problems arising out of adverse trading conditions due to imbalance between cost of production and sale price realisation. However, on its part, Govt. have taken various steps to improve the overall functioning of jute industry which include:—

- (i) regular purchases of jute bags for packing foodgrains through DGS&D at cost-plus prices;
- (ii) enforcement of mandatory use of jute goods by certain specified end-user industries;
- (iii) introduction of Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme and special Jute Development Fund;
- (iv) implementation of internal Market Assistance Scheme and External Market Assistance Scheme;
- (v) adoption of new STC/JMDC loss-sharing strategy for capturing global tenders;

(vi) STC/Jute industry consortium arrangement on 50:50 loss-sharing basis for export of CBC to North America and grant of liberal rate of CCs on almost all exportable items of jute goods from 1.4.89 for a period of 3 years upto 31-3-92 admissible to both manufacturer and merchant exporters; and

(vii) ten weeks' raw jute stock control order for regulating prices and permission for duty-free import of raw jute against export of jute goods under Advance Licensing Scheme.

World Bank Aid for India

1984. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of aid has been approved for India by the World Bank for the financial year 1989-90;

(b) how does this amount compare with the amounts sanctioned by the World Bank during the last two years;

(c) whether the World Bank has earmarked any developmental projects in India for utilising the sanctioned aid for the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALERO): (a) and (b) At the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June, 1989 the World Bank has indicated that the commitment to India for the fiscal year 1990, i.e. from 1st July 1989 to 30th June, 1990 would be US \$ 2.9 billion. The likely commitments indicated at consortium meeting for the fiscal years 1988 and 1989 were \$ 2.5 billion and \$ 2.7 billion respectively. In each of these years, actual commitments were higher, at \$ 2.97 billion and \$ 3.04 billion respectively.

(c) and (d) As in the previous years, the Bank group assistance would be linked to specific project investments. The details of such projects and the sectoral composition of the Bank assistance is at present indeterminate since this would depend upon the status of projects preparation and processing.

Visit of an Indian Delegation to Jordan

1985. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUT-TINAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian delegation headed by the President of FICCI visited Jordan recently and had a meeting with the members of Amman Chamber of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, what was the agenda for the meeting and what was the outcome thereof; and

(c) whether setting up of any joint venture was agreed upon and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The agenda for the meeting included scope for co-operation between India and Jordan with the object of identifying specific areas of co-operation.

(c) The possibility of joint ventures in the field of petrochemicals, readymade garments etc., were identified. The details will be worked out by the parties concerned.

Imposition of Ban on the Sale of Ivory and Ivory Products in Kerala

1986. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

KUMARI SAYEEDA KHAT-TUN:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that ivory and ivory products worth over rupees