

and (b) Export of non-basmati rice during 1988-89 has been allowed within a ceiling. On the basis of registration of contracts with the Agricultural & Processed Food Product Export Development Authority (APEDA), backed by 100 per cent confirmed irrevocable Letter of Credit or against advance payment received in full, exports are allowed. APEDA has permitted shipments of 2,277 MTs of non-basmati rice upto 25th October, 1988 during the current financial year. There is no firm from Calcutta which has been permitted export. Further, none of the shipments permitted is to any European Country.

#### Decanalisation of Import Items

145. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to further decanalise the import items;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it will further privatise the foreign trade and if so, the consequences thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) to (c) The Import Policy is kept under constant review and necessary amendment are made from time to time in public interest.

#### Slash in leading rate

146. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a slash in the lending rate; if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the beneficiaries will include the sick/closed industries and

if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the domestic savings, stagnant for the last four years, will get a boost, if the lending rates are slashed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FAL- EIRO): (a) Lending as also borrowing rates are reviewed by the Government from time to time, keeping in view various macro-economic trends. There is no proposal under consideration at present for a reduction in lending rate.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Abandoning of zero-based budgeting

147. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Government had adopted a Zero-based budgeting method;

(b) if so, what are its advantages and characteristics and how it is functioning; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to abandon this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Under the Zero base budgeting scheme, as evolved by the Government, each Ministry is required to review its programmes and activities, both plan and non plan, and priorities them with a view to (i) giving up those activities which cease to be relevant or are not vital to the functioning of the Ministry and (ii) identify low priority areas for reallocation of funds and providing adequate resources for high

priority areas. The impact of these exercises will be known after a period of years.

(c) No, Sir.

**Action Plan for giving loans in Orissa**

148. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some banks in Orissa have finalised their action plan for giving loan in the State;

(b) if so, what are the purposes for which loan would be disbursed and investment would be made by the banks till the end of the Seventh Plan; and

(c) what are the details of the action plan prepared by different banks for giving loans to the beneficiaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under Lead Bank Scheme banks had prepared Annual Action Plans for the year, 1988 for implementation in Orissa. Under the Annual Action Plans loans are disbursed for various activities, under broad sector viz. Agriculture and Allied Activities activities, Small Scale Industries and Tertiary Sector. The target for these three broad sectors under the Annual Action Plan for 1988 for Orissa is Rs. 365.81 crores.

**Balance of payments position**

149. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI M. S. GURUPADA-SWAMY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the position of the balance of payments as on 30th September, 1988; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) The Balance of Payment Statistics are compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. There is normally a time lag of more than 12 months before the full figures of Balance of Payment become available. The latest full year Balance of Payment Statistics published by the Reserve Bank of India pertain to the year 1986-87.

**Broadening of Direct Tax base**

150. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for broadening direct tax base; and

(b) what is the impact of such steps?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Tax base is being broadened through various legislative and administrative measures. Legislative measures include curtailing of exemptions/deductions and enlarging areas of deduction of tax at source. Administrative measures include strengthening of survey teams, intensifying survey work and streamlining of information systems.

(b) Steps taken have resulted in addition to the number of tax-payers and increase in revenue.