

(b) The number of workers who became unemployed due to the closure of these mills which were lying closed as on 31.10.84, 31.10.85 and 31.10.86 was 110792, 111156 and 118211 respectively.

A Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund has been established under the Textile Policy of June, 1985 to provide financial assistance to the workers of those mills which closed down permanently after announcement of the Policy.

Nuclear research reactor of Bangladesh

1351. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHAN-
DRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports that Bangladesh has had its first nuclear research reactor put into operation on September 14-15, 1986;

(b) if so, whether Government have sought or obtained any assurance from the Bangladesh Government that it would confine to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and would not strive in the field of nuclear weapons; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) What is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have noted that according to the Bangladesh authorities, the reactor is to be utilized in fields of radio isotopes production for use in nuclear medicine and applied agricultural research.

“वित्त मंत्रालय की काली सूची में कम्पनियों के नाम” शीर्षक का समाचार

1352. श्री प्रमोद महाजन : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान बम्बई से प्रकाशित ‘नवभारत टाइम्स’ में 11 अक्टूबर, 1986 को पृष्ठ 10 पर “वित्त मंत्रालय की काली सूची में कम्पनियों के नाम” नामक शीर्षक से छपी खबर की ओर दिलाया गया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसमें तथ्य क्या हैं तथा सरकार द्वारा इस संबंध में क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पृजारी) : (क) और (ख) सूचना संभव सीमा तक एकत्र की जा रही है और उसे सदन-पटल पर रख दिया जाएगा ।

Criticism of NAM by Libya and Iran

1353. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether at the Summit of NAM recently held at Harare, Libya and Iran criticised the NAM for its so-called ineffectiveness in dealing with their security problems; and

(b) if so, what answer was provided by the Summit to that criticism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) In their statements during the general debate at the Harare Summit, President Khamenei of Iran and Col. Gaddafi of Libya made some critical references to the Nonaligned Movement especially in the context of the Iran-Iraq war and the US aggression against Libya respectively. The Political Declaration of the Harare Summit reflects the consensus views of the Non-aligned Movement on these issues.

Fourth meeting of the Himalayan Mountaineering and Tourism

1354. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that leading mountaineers and trekkers have demanded better facilities to the trainees at the

Fourth meeting of the Himalayan Mountaineering and Tourism;

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

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) The Indian Mountaineering Foundation have indicated that no such demand was made.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Smuggling of gold through diplomatic channel

1355. SHRI SHARAD YADAV:
SHRI RAM AWADESH
SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gold smuggling cases through diplomatic channel detected during the last one year till date and the value thereof in each case;

(b) what are the names of the foreign missions and the status of the diplomats involved; and

(c) what action Government have taken in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) During the last one year (from September, 1985 to September, 1986), two diplomats of two different countries were found involved in the smuggling of gold worth Rs. 130.86 lakhs, in two cases. In public interest, it will not be expedient to disclose the names of the country to which they belong.

(c) The Government has conveyed its serious concern to the countries concerned and these diplomats have already left the country.

Losses incurred by the Regional Rural Banks

1356. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the Regional Rural Banks in the country have been incurring losses;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the Banks have wiped out the entire share capital and reserves;

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

(d) what are the names of such banks which have wiped out their entire share capital and reserves; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a), (b) and (d) During the year 1985 out of 188 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) 152 were in loss. As at the end of December, 1985, ninety one regional rural banks listed in the enclosed statement (See below), are reported to have eroded their issued share capital and reserves due to continued losses.

(c) The main reasons for such losses are (i) rapid branch expansion by these banks; (ii) low business potential due to locational disadvantages of the centres served by these banks and limited clientele consisting of persons with an annual income upto Rs. 6500/- only; (iii) increase in establishment costs due to upward revision in pay and allowances etc.

(e) Pursuant to the recommendations made by the Working Group on RRBs a number of steps are proposed to be taken for improving the viability of RRBs. These include (i) release of additional share capital to RRBs with satisfactory track record; (ii) enlarging the scope of their lending by allowing them to lend to public.