

Government Undertakings to float public sector bonds to attract public savings; and

(b) if so, what is the Central Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The present scheme is confined to Central Public Sector undertakings, primarily in the infrastructure fields. The question of extending the facility to financially viable state undertakings in similar fields will be decided by Government after sufficient experience has been gained in the operation of the scheme and in the light of the overall resources position of the Central Government in relation to its commitments.

SBI Branches in Maharashtra for Agricultural Development

1407. **SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places in Maharashtra where the State Bank of India has opened branches for agricultural development; and

(b) what is the number of farmers who have been advanced loans by these branches during the current year and the amount thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The names of the centres in Maharashtra where State Bank of India has Agricultural Development Branches as on 27th December, 1985 are set out in the enclosed Statement. (See below).

(b) The number of farmers who have been advanced loans by the Agricultural Development Branches of State Bank of India and the amount outstanding thereof as reported by RBI are indicated below:—

	As on 30-6-1985		As on 30-6-1985	
	Number of farmers	Amount outstanding (Rs. crores.)	Number of farmers	Amount outstanding (Rs. crores.)
1. Direct	58898	33.68	65416	34.86
2. Indirect	5447	2.20	9203	3.01

Statement

Names of centres in Maharashtra where State Bank of India has Agricultural Development Branches as under (position as on 27th December, 1985).

Sr. No.	Name of centre	District
1	2	3
1.	Satara	Satara
2.	Indapur	Pune

1	2	3
3.	Junar	Pune
4.	Mingoli	Parbhani
5.	Loha	Nanded
6.	Amgaon	Bhandara
7.	Sakoli	Bhandara
8.	Arvi	Wardha
9.	Achalpur (Amravati)	Amravati
10.	Amravati	-Do-
11.	Dhamangaon	-Do-

1	2	3
12. Akola		Akola
13. Akot		-Do-
14. Balapur		-Do-
15. Jalagaon (Jamod)		Buldhana
16. Khamgaon		-Do-
17. Malkapur		-Do-
18. Mehkar		-Do-
19. Igatpuri		Nasik
20. Chalisgaon		Jalagaon
21. Jalgaon		-Do-
22. Jamner		-Do-
23. Shirala		Latur

Development of tourist spots in the Himalayan Belt

1408. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that disturbances in Darjeeling has affected the normal tourist traffic to this place; and

(b) whether the Department of Tourism propose to develop more tourist spots in the Himalayan Belt and also in eastern coastal areas so as to attract foreign and Indian tourists to these places?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) No statistics on the movement of domestic and foreign tourists to Darjeeling are available with the Government to determine the trend of tourist traffic to this place.

(b) Tourist spots in the Himalayan Belt as well as Eastern Coastal area, feature prominently in the development plans of the Ministry of Tourism.

Improvements in taxation laws

1909. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to complicated laws, tax evasion in the country persists;

(b) if so, whether several eminent taxation experts have urged Government to have simpler laws and procedures which will secure greater cooperation from the tax payers; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAN-ARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A complex tax structure is one of the reasons for tax avoidance. Experts have suggested that the direct tax laws and procedures should be simplified to promote better tax compliance. The simplification of the direct tax laws and procedures has been engaging the Government's attention. This is a continuous process and certain legislative and administrative measures have been taken in this regard in the past. Other appropriate legislative measures in this direction are expected to be sponsored through a Comprehensive Taxation Laws Amendment Bill proposed to be introduced in Parliament shortly.

Introduction of new schemes by LIC

1410. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced new life insurance schemes to be introduced this year;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the poor people in the country will be benefited by these new schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAN-ARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the Budget announcement made for the year 1986-87, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced a Group Insurance Scheme for railway porters and municipal sweepers. The Scheme, which is operated through Workers' Unions, provides insurance cover of