

to remit Rs. 1.47 crores to the foreign shareholders towards dividend for the years 1982-83. Financial year for 1983-84 has ended recently and remittance application will be made to the Reserve Bank after the legal requirements have been completed.

(b) and (c) The company has already diluted its foreign holding to a level below 40 per cent. Dilution obligation under FERA ceases once a company reduces its foreign holding to 40 per cent or below.

Import licence for the import of second-hand plant and machinery by M/s. ITC Limited

178. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. ITC Limited have been issued licence for the import of second-hand plant and machinery during the last three years;

(b) if so, the value of import in each case; and

(c) whether Government propose to order enquiry to ensure that prices paid for those plants were fair and reasonable?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No separate statistics of actual import are maintained party-wise.

(c) No, Sir. However, in order to ensure that prices paid for second-hand plant and machinery are fair and reasonable, each import application is required to be accompanied by a Chartered Engineer's certificate indicating, *inter-alia*, the year of manufacture, cost of major reconditioning/repairs carried out, if any, present condition of the plant and machinery, its expected residual life and the CIF value of equivalent Capital Goods, if purchased new. Such applications are considered in an Inter-Ministerial meeting where representatives of technical Departments are present.

Evasion of payment of excise duty by M/s. I.T.O Limited

179. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that M/s. I.T.C. Limited has evaded the payment of excise duty by obtaining refunds of huge amounts during the last three years;

(b) if not, what are the details of refund granted to them during the above period; and

(c) what are the details of interest on Government dues outstanding against the Company for 1983-84?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Demand from farmers to permit export of cotton

180. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers are demanding lifting of ban on export of cotton; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) Government have been receiving requests for allowing further exports of cotton. In view of prevailing demand and supply position and price trend, no further releases of cotton are being made for export at present.

Achievement of target under Integrated Rural Development Programme

181. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the banks are creating difficulties in ad-

vancing loans under the Integrated Rural Development Programme; and

(b) what were the targets fixed for each State for 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 and to what extent they were achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Banks are being constantly advised to

play a more active role in implementing integrated Rural Development Programme. During the Sixth Plan period, the annual target under IRDP for the entire country is to assist approximately 30 lakh families by providing aggregate term credit of Rs. 600 crores through scheduled commercial banks and co-operative banking institutions. As against this the achievements are as under:—

Year	Term credit mobilised (Rs. in crore)	No. of beneficiaries (In lakhs)
1980-81	289.05	27.27
1981-82	467.59	27.13
1982-83	713.98	34.55
1983-84* (Till Jan., '84)	457.05	21.81

*Figures are provisional.

State-wise targets and achievements are given in the statement.

Statement

State-wise Progress of IRDP

State/Union Territories	No. of beneficiaries 1981-82		No. of beneficiaries 1982-83		No. of beneficiaries 1983-84 (Provisional)	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	(up to the end of Jan. 1984)	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	1,94,480	2,38,846	1,94,400	2,84,783	1,98,000	1,64,470
Assam	80,400	22,171	80,400	39,588	80,400	46,380
Bihar	3,52,200	2,76,169	3,52,200	3,62,354	3,52,200	2,40,230
Gujarat	1,30,800	1,16,115	1,30,800	1,73,790	1,30,800	1,16,413
Haryana	52,200	79,605	52,200	1,58,678	55,800	76,107
Himachal Pradesh	41,400	34,877	41,400	45,755	41,400	34,208
Jammu and Kashmir	45,000	27,689	45,000	35,435	67,800	18,093
Karnataka	1,05,000	87,460	1,05,000	1,78,856	1,35,000	94,945
Kerala	86,400	96,832	86,400	1,27,798	90,600	82,286
Madhya Pradesh	2,74,800	2,31,861	2,74,800	3,13,870	2,75,400	1,91,398
Maharashtra	1,77,600	1,39,092	1,77,600	2,19,690	1,77,700	1,42,005
Manipur	15,600	3,627	15,600	8,358	11,700	5,162
Meghalaya	14,400	6,045	14,400	7,457	18,000	689
Nagaland	12,600	12,565	12,600	N.A.	12,600	8,365
Orissa	1,88,400	1,38,367	1,88,400	2,52,453	1,88,400	1,34,674

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	70,200	86,867	70,200	98,435	70,800	61,550
Rajasthan	1,39,200	1,21,576	1,39,200	1,83,402	1,41,600	1,12,976
Sikkim	2,400	262	2,400	3,158	2,400	1,474
Tamilnadu	2,26,200	3,58,225	2,26,200	2,71,563	2,25,600	1,73,431
Tripura	10,200	10,146	10,200	9,122	10,200	6,279
Uttar Pradesh	5,25,600	5,40,160	5,25,600	5,54,986	5,32,200	3,81,395
West Bengal	2,01,000	67,338	201,000	95,607	201,000	72,952
A & N Islands	3,000	N.A.	3,000	73	150	257
Arunachal Pradesh	28,800	5,921	28,800	13,685	8,000	1,734
Chandigarh	600	N.A.	600	405	600	N.A.
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	600	N.A.	600	249	600	272
Delhi	3,000	2,840	3,000	5,027	3,000	2,561
Goa, Daman and Diu	7,200	5,259	7,200	6,616	6,800	5,541
Lakshadweep	3,000	N.A.	3,000	312	800	270
Mizoram	12,000	1,712	12,000	1,977	12,000	3,516
Pondicherry	2,400	2,591	2,400	1,971	2,400	1,213

Insufficient banking facilities in certain States

182. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and the North-Eastern region continued to be unbanked in relation to the national average;

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

(c) how far it has affected the progress of the State concerned, and

(d) what steps have been contemplated to narrow the gap?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POLJARY): (a) to (d) In recent times the basic objective of the branch expansion policy of commercial banks has been to accelerate the pace of expansion in the hitherto unbanked rural and semi-urban centres and rectify the existing imbalances in the spread of banking

facilities in the country. Pursuant to the implementation of the policy, considerable progress has been made in the post nationalisation period in the coverage of banking facilities in rural and semi-urban areas and in reducing inter-State and inter-District disparities. As a result of the sustained efforts, the population coverage of banks has improved significantly. Relevant data as on 19-7-1969 and 30-9-1983 for the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and for the States/Union Territories comprising North Eastern Region as also for the country as a whole is set out in the Statement. It may be seen that there has been marked improvement in respect of all these States/Union Territories.

The branch licensing policy currently in force covers the period April 1982 to March 1985. It has been envisaged under the policy to achieve by March 1985, a coverage of one bank office for every 17000 population in the rural and semi-urban areas on the basis of 1981 Census, so as to further reduce the regional imbalances in the spread of banking facilities.