

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): During the year 1983, Reserve Bank of India has issued licences to the following three foreign banks to open a branch each in India at Bombay:—

1. Bank of Nova Scotia.
2. Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Ltd.
3. Oman Arab African Bank.

In addition, Banque Nationale De Paris which was already having branches in India has been permitted to open a branch at New Delhi in lieu of one of its existing branches at Calcutta and its representative office at New Delhi.

West Bengal Government's request to float a company to carry on Banking Business

842. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2973 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 1983 and state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have since taken a decision on the request of the Government of West Bengal regarding the issue of a licence to float a company for the purpose of carrying on banking business; and

(b) if not, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The matter is under correspondence between the Reserve Bank of India, which is the statutory authority for licencing a banking company, and the Government of West Bengal. It is not possible to indicate at this stage a date by which a decision will be taken.

Distribution of bank loan by persons other than Government officials

843. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether public money from the nationalised banks can be distributed as loans by persons other than Government Officials; and

(b) if so, whether there is any precedent in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Banks organise public functions to create a greater awareness on the part of the weaker section about the assistance that they can avail from banks, to motivate them to undertake self-employment ventures by availing of such facilities or to demonstrate to the public that the facilities meant for these groups are in effect reaching them. At such functions banks arrange a token distribution of assistance based on the loan applications duly processed and sanctioned by the competent bank authorities under different schemes or programmes, at the hand of the Chief Guest or any other chosen person. It is not necessary that the person so chosen be a bank official.

Distribution of Application Forms for Bank Loans under mass loaning Programme

844. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN:

SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the banks along with their branches from where the application forms were distributed for the grant of bank loans under the Mass Loaning Programme held on the 4th January, 1984;