

recover the loans advanced under this programme;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India to the State Government in this regard; and

(d) what is the amount due for recovery under the scheme at present?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c) Government and the Reserve Bank of India have been very serious about the recovery of bank loans given to the weaker sections of society under the I.R.D. Programme. In the Regional Consultative Committee Meetings and also in the State Level and District Level Consultative Committee Meetings the point of recovery and recycling of funds is particularly stressed and impressed upon the State Governments and Banks. Earlier the eligibility criteria for refinance by NABARD linking it to recoveries was applicable to State Land Development Banks only. With effect from 1st July, 1983, the criteria have been made applicable to commercial banks also.

(d) Separate data regarding amount due for recovery under the Integrated Rural Development Programme are not available. However, as at the end of June, 1981, the demand for direct agricultural advances was Rs. 1500.77 crores. The amount recovered was Rs. 791.91 crores. The percentage of recovery to demand has been worked out to be 52.7 per cent.

Export to USSR

2283. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Customs clamp down on underbidding—Exports to USSR at standstill" which appeared in the "Business Standard" Calcutta edition, dated the 24th March, 1983;

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

(c) whether Soviet experts had imported the goods after inspection and if so, the names and status of the leader and other members of the team who visited India; and

(d) whether any enquiry was made and if so, the steps taken against the Indian suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (d) The news item appears to have arisen out of checks made by the revenue authorities in connection with the performance of their normal duties. However, no shipments have been held up and exports to USSR have been going on smoothly.

Appointment of Separate Pay Body for independent bodies

2284. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth Pay Commission which has been set up by Government is likely to cover the independent bodies like the Supreme Court and Secretariats of Parliament

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a separate Pay Body for those bodies; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PATTABHI RAMA RAO): (a) The last Pay Commission did not cover such bodies. The present Pay Commission may also not cover such bodies.

(b) and (c) No such proposal is at present under consideration.

Setting up of cotton testing laboratory in Hyderabad

2285. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a cotton testing laboratory in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Bank rates

2286. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a survey conducted by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry according to which bank rates in India are higher than those in the developed countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The bank rate in India is determined, keeping in view the specific characteristics of the economy and its changing requirements. International comparisons in this regard are therefore not very meaningful. The data on bank rate published by the Association of Indian Engineering for certain centres, shows that it differs from country to country and from time to time and in some cases it is higher than that in India.

Production of Jute

2287. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the production of jute during the last year; and

(b) what is the quantity of jute expected to be produced during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI-MATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) The production of jute and mesta during the last year 1982-83 (July-June) is estimated at 63 lakh bales.

(b) The anticipated production of jute and mesta during the current year 1983-84 (July-June) is estimated at 75 lakh bales.

Export of tallow

2288. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to canalise the export of tallow through S.T.C.; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir. The export of beef tallow (including tallow of Indian buffalo) and mutton tallow continue to be banned.

(b) Does not arise.

Daily deposit system in the L.I.C.

2289. SHRI JAGANNATHRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC has any arrangement for daily deposits in addition