

Overdrafts drawn by states

*77. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what steps have been taken to clear the overdrafts drawn by the States; and

(b) what are the suggestions of the States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The following steps were taken to clear the overdrafts drawn by the States as at the end of June 1982:

Term loans aggregating to Rs. 1743.46 crores were provided to 'the States to clear their closing deficits at the end of 1981-82. Other than this, short-term assistance amounting to Rs. 690 crores to clear additional deficits that States generated between 1st April and 30th June, 1982 was also given in the form of advance release of the States' share in Central taxes, Central assistance for State Plans and ways and means advances.

(b) The Finance Minister has written to all the Chief Ministers on 3rd July, 1982 conveying the latest decision of the Government of India. The Finance Minister, however, discussed with a number of Chief Ministers regarding the problem of overdraft before the decision on it was announced.

Demand for facilities by Rural Bank Employees

*78. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR:
SAHU;
SHRI BHUVNESH
CHATURVEDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that the staff of the regional rural banks have demanded the same facilities as are provided to the employees of the commercial banks; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what steps have been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Representations have been made by the employees of the Regional Rural Banks from time to time demanding emoluments and other facilities on the same scale as are admissible to the employees of the commercial banks.

The Regional Rural Banks have been set up as low cost institution in a rural milieu with limited jurisdiction to provide credit to a restricted clientele in rural areas such as small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, artisans and small entrepreneurs. To distinguish them from the other commercial banks with their high cost staff and urban bias it has been provided in section 17 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 that the remuneration of the officers and other employees of such banks would be determined by the Central Government having due regard to the salary structure of the employees of the State Government (or of a local authority) of comparable level and status. Their emoluments and facilities, have, therefore, been determined accordingly. Government have no intention to allow the same scales of pay and other allowances as are payable to the employees in the commercial banks which perform a variety of other functions and are different in character.

Prosecution to check tax evasion and growth of black money

*79. SHRI KALYAN ROY;
SHRI LADLI MOHAN
NIGAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

[a] whether he emphasised on the Commissioners of Income Tax in the meeting held at Bombay in May,