

the setting up of a separate Recruitment Board for the Nationalised banks in the North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government in this regard and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

1 Government have decided to constitute a separate Banking Service Recruitment Board for the North-East-ern Region. The proposed Board would be the recruiting agency for the officers' cadre of United Bank of India, on all-India basis and for the clerical cadre of all nationalised banks in the States and Union Territories of North-Eastern Region, namely, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

Gold deposit in Nilambore Valley in Iwalappuram district

*195. SHRI O. J. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to exploit the gold deposits in Nilambore Valley in Malappuram District; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No. Sir. It is necessary to make further quantitative investigation to estimate reserves and tenor of the deposit, before reaching the stage of con-
Ho^ to exploit the deposits.

Setting up of a National Agricultural Development Bank

@*196. SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA;

SHRI PRAKASH MEHROTRA:

SHRIMATI USHA MAL-
HOTRA;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Agricultural Development Bank in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government have agreed in principle to set up a National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Reserve Bank of India have been requested to work out the details of the proposed bank.

Curbing the growth of black money

•197. SHRI GURUDEV GUPTA:

SHRI SAWAISINGH
SISODIA ;

SHRIMATI HAMIDA
HABIBULLAH;

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the steps recently taken or proposed to be taken by Government to curb the growth of black money in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.