

would make any probe into the disproportionate quota system.

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: This is not related to the question itself. Still, to remove any suspicion, I would like to clarify the position. So far as our export of garments is concerned, 50 per cent has been reserved for handloom. So far as America is concerned, it is not 50 per cent and against one, handloom will get two. It will be double of the mill-made cloth. In my talks with Mme. Kreps it was mentioned that they are not counting handloom products so far as quotas are concerned. Only for incentive varieties, they do bring it to the consultation level and we have suggested that in view of the labour intensity of the handloom products, they should be excluded even from that consultation level.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Bad debts written off by the public sector banks

*224. **SHRI K. V. RAGHUNATHA REDDY:**

**SHRI KHAWAJA MUBA-
RAK SHAH:**

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of bad debts written off by the public sector banks during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the bank-wise break-up of the amount;

(c) the circumstances under which the amounts above Rs. 10 lakhs had been written off and what is the total of such amounts;

(d) the norms adopted for writing off such loans; and

(e) whether any exceptions were made in applying these norms in respect of any borrowers; if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) to (c), Public sector banks are enjoined upon by law not to disclose information regarding the provision for bad and doubtful debts or about the affairs of their constituents. In view of this legal position, information relating to the amounts written off cannot be divulged.

(d) and (e) All public sector banks made provisions every year out of their annual income for bad and doubtful debts to the satisfaction of their Statutory Auditors and write off from such provisions the debts which are considered by their managements as ultimately irrecoverable. The banks review periodically all their outstanding advances and where an advance is found to be difficult of recovery, banks take steps to recall such advance. Banks also take recourse to securities pledged or hypothecated and also invoke guarantees wherever available. Suits are also filed against the borrowers and guarantors wherever considered necessary for recovery of advances. It is only when all possible steps to realise the dues have failed, the banks write off the irrecoverable portion of the banks' advances. Available information does not indicate that the banks have made any exceptions in this regard.

Balance of payments position

*225. **SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:**

SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA:

**SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN
SINGH:**

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present balance of payments position of the country;

(b) what are the percentages of different contributions of visible and invisible payments within the last two years;

(c) what is the overall foreign exchange reserve of the country;

(d) what are the names of the countries where Government are at