

English and Hindi languages. Regional languages were also used in some pavilions.

(b) No, Sir. The guides were fully conversant with both English and Hindi languages apart from knowing their own regional languages. Most of the State pavilions employed the Guides from their own States who knew their respective regional languages.

(c) No, Sir. In most of the cases the exhibits were easily understood by the farmers; the more sophisticated exhibits were explained to them.

(d) No, Sir. Majority of the States and Union Territories participated in the Exposition.

Guidelines issued to Public Financial Institutions

♦747. SHRI HARSH DEO MALA-VIYA:
DR. V. P. DUTT:
SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD
NANDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any revised guidelines for 1977-78 have been issued to the public financial institutions for sanctioning loans for various projects;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and what are the priorities suggested; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to ensure the compliance of these guidelines by the public financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) Government have issued revised guidelines for the year 1977-78 for the internal use of all-India Public Financial Institutions with the objective of ensuring that assistance sanctioned for projects are in line with the overall national priorities. The

salient features of the guidelines which also indicate priority among industries, are:

(i) in sanctioning assistance to new or expansion projects, financial institutions should invariably examine employment implications of the projects to be financed by them and with a view to promote employment in such projects the possibility of substituting automatic and capital intensive processes by labour intensive processes should invariably be explored;

(ii) it should be ensured that adequate finance is provided for the development of rural and village industries as well as for projects where a large part of the benefit flows to rural areas;

(iii) in view of the need to reduce the domestic costs and prices, financial institutions should examine the cost of production in comparison with international prices of similar products and avoid setting up uneconomic high-cost capacities in non-strategic areas.

(c) The all-India Public Financial Institutions/ are expected to follow these guidelines while sanctioning assistance.

Airport at Pondicherry

*748. SHRI V. P. MUNUSAMY:
SHRIMATI NOOHJEHAN
RAZACK:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up an airport at Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken in this regard and by when the airport is likely to be ready for operations?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURSHOT-TAM KAUSHIK): (a) Not, at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Amtunt advanced by the nationalised banks to Foreign Companies

*749. DR. V. P. DUTT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount advanced by the nationalised banks to foreign companies or their subsidiaries functioning in India from April to November, 1977;

(b) the amount outstanding against these companies as on the 31st March, 1977 and the interest accrued thereon; and

(c) whether any notice has been se'rv'd on any of these companies to repay the amount advanced and the interest thereon and if so, what has been the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) The present system of statistical reporting evolved by Reserve Bank of India does not provide for collection of data on bank credit to foreign companies.

The information available so far indicates that outstanding advances of twelve nationalised banks viz. United Commercial Bank, Indian Bank, United Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Bank of India, Dena Bank, Union Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Allahabad Bank, Syndicate Bank, Canara Bank and State Bank of India stood around Rs. 126.37 crores as on 31st March, 1977. 1608 RS—3.

(c) None of these banks has served any notice on any of the foreign companies assisted by them to repay the amount advanced.

Involvement monopoly houses in the development of backward rural areas

†*750. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the monopoly houses which have submitted plans to Government for rural development and for the development of backward areas; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H. M. PATEL): (a) and (b) In the light of the revised industrial licensing policy announced by the Central Government in February, 1973, the term "monopoly houses" mentioned in the Question is taken to refer to those undertakings registered under section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 which, by themselves or together with their interconnected undertakings, have assets of not less than Rs. 20 crores thereby attracting the provisions of section 20 (a) (i) or (ii) of the said Act.

A statement giving the names of 15 companies falling in the above category which have made applications to the prescribed authority for approved of rural development programmes for the purposes of section 35CC of the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the action taken by the prescribed authority in respect of such applications is laid on the Table of the House..

†Previously Starred Question 491 transferred from the 8th December, 1977.