

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

M.M.T.C. for participation in price negotiations

615. SHRI K. B. CHETTRI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the M.M.T.C. has requested Government for permission to participate in the price negotiations for export of ore from Goa?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : No, Sir.

Branches of private sector banks functioning in rural areas

616. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of branches of private sector banks which are at present functioning in rural and semi-rural areas; and

(b) whether there are any guidelines for these private sector banks regarding credit and deposit policy and regarding advance to priority sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The population groupwise classification adopted by the Reserve Bank of India comprises rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan/port town categories. Rural centres are those having population of less than 10,000 while semi-urban having population exceeding 10,000 but less than 1,00,000. As at the end of June, 1974 private sector banks had 3195 offices in the country, of which 1066 were located at rural centres and 1036 at semi-urban centres.

(b) Reserve Bank of India have been issuing from time to time, guidelines to

all the commercial banks, including those in the private sector, regarding the overall credit policy, interest rates payable on deposits, stepping up of deposit mobilisation financing of priority sector etc.

Central assistance sought for by West Bengal Government rural works programme

617. DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI :
SHRI K. B. CHETTRI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has sent a request to the Central Government for an additional financial assistance of Rs. 15 crores to finance the rural works programme as part of anticipatory contingency plan for the year 1975-76; and

(b) if so, whether, in view of the critical famine condition in the State, the Central Government propose to sanction this additional amount for the purpose of relief work;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

M.P. Government's request to permit State Industries Development Corporation to raise loan

618. SHRI CHAKRAPANI SHUKLA :
SHRI SAWAISINGH SISODIA :
SHRI N. P. CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested his Ministry to permit the State Industries Development Corporation to raise a loan of Rs. 2.5 crores; and

(b) if so, what has been the Central Government's reaction thereto?