

cleared b) the nationalised banks in that State, and

(1) if so, what steps have been taken by the Central Government to speed up clearance of such applications in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The West Bengal Finance Minister had in a communication addressed 10 the Union Minister of State for Planning, underlined the need for creating a greater awareness in bank offices about the role of financial institutions in extending credit support to self-employment schemes sponsored in State Government under the Half-a-Million Jobs Programme.

(b) The measures taken by Government in stepping up flow of bank funds for self-employment programmes are briefly set out below:

(i) The progress achieved by banks in extending support to Half-a-Million Jobs Programme was reviewed at a meeting taken by the Union Finance Minister with the Chief Executives of public sector banks in November, 1971. Necessary guidelines setting out the precise role of the banks in this programme were issued 10 branches. The banks were asked to ensure that guidelines have reached all the branches and that they start implementing the same without delay. Pursuant to this decision, public sector banks have issued detailed instructions to their branches outlining the significance of the self-employment schemes and indicating the specific measures to be taken by the branches in extending support for such schemes.

(ii) The banks have also been requested to ensure that all applications for loan assistance under self-employment programme are disposed of within two months of receipt of application.

(iii) Government of West Bengal have set up a State Level Coordination Committee to consider the measures taken by public sector banks for extending financial support for self-employment programmes. Apart from the representatives of the various public sector banks, a senior official of the Department of Banking of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India also attended the first meeting of the Coordination Committee held in November, 1971.

Details of the credit support extended by the public sector banks under the Half-

a-Million Jobs Programme sponsored by the Government of West Bengal are yet to be received from all public sector banks. The reports received so far from three public sector banks, indicate that banks have sanctioned 372 applications out of 499 received by them. While eight applications have been rejected, the remaining are under consideration.

Sale of Coarse cloth in black market

*22. SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

SHRI GANESH LAL MAUI:

SHRI YOCENDRA SHARMA:

SHRI S. C. SARDKSAI:

SHRI K. L. CHETTRI:

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA:

DR. R. K. CHAKRABARTI:

SHRIMATI SITA DEVI:

SHRI ROSHAN LAL:

SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact between 400 and 500 million metres of coarse cloth, meant for distribution through fair price shops has been clandestinely sold at prices three times higher than those actually marked on the cloth; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA): (a) No such allegation has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Issue of Currency Notes of Fifty Rupee Denomination

*23. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMATI RATHNABAI SREENIVASA RAO:

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER:

SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI:

SHRIMATI KIJMUDHEN MANISANKAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to issue currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 50.

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) by when these notes are likely to be in circulation; and

(d) the details about their design?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fifty rupee notes were issued for circulation when paper currency was first introduced in India in 1862 and were discontinued only some time before the Reserve Bank was established in 1935. In view of the need for reducing the number of notes in the lower denominations which are physically required to be handled, the reintroduction of the fifty rupee note, in addition to all the other denominations is considered necessary.

(c) and (d) The design and form of the fifty rupee note are still under consideration and a recommendation from the Reserve Bank of India is awaited.

India's trade with Soviet Union

*24. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN: SHRI

P. K. KUNJACHANDRAN: SHRI

MONORWAN ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of India's exports to the Soviet Union during the last three years;

(b) Whether it is a fact that India's exports to the Soviet Union are expected to increase by Rs. 100 crores during this year; and

(c) if so, the traditional and non-traditional items which are likely to be imported by Soviet Union from India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The value of India's exports to USSR during the last three years was as follows:

Year	Actual exports
1970-71	Rs. 209.85 crores
1971-72	Rs. 208.70
1972-73	Rs. 304.82

(b) India's exports to USSR during 1973-74 and 1974-75 are expected to grow

progressively. At this stage, however, it cannot be stated what the precise extent of increase will be.

(c) Major items of traditional and non-traditional exports to USSR are: Jute goods, tea, cotton textiles, tobacco, cashew kernels, hides and skins, coffee, castor oil, spices, mica, de-oiled cakes, HPS Groundnuts etc. and garage equipment, storage batteries, cables, readymade garments, woollen knitwear, leather shoes, paints, enamels and varnishes, spectacle frames, dye-stuffs and intermediates etc.

Use of Paper Currencies to replace Gold

*25. SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA

MENON: OR. K. MAHESWARI: KL'RIAN:

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHANDRAN.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial experts from the major trading nations have proposed use of fourteen key paper currencies to replace gold for commercial purposes:

(b) whether the proposal has been accepted in the International Monetary Fund; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government to the above proposal?

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

Statement

When the Special Drawing Rights were created as a new international reserve unit in 1969, their value was defined in terms of gold. Since the U. S. dollar was also defined in terms of gold, the transaction value in the SDR in terms of other currencies was derived by multiplying the SDR = dollar parity by the market rate of exchange of the relevant currency in terms of the dollar. However, with the suspension of the convertibility of dollar into gold in August 1971 and widespread floating of currencies since then, the above mentioned arrangement has been found to be increasingly unsatisfactory. In particular when major currencies are floating, the transaction value of the SDR is likely to vary from day to day depending on fluctuations in exchange rate of a currency vis-à-vis the dollar. This has affected the use of SDR in settlement of international payments. In recognition of this fact, the Managing Director of the IMF has proposed the valuation of SDR in terms of a standard basket of currencies during the