

(b) if so, what are the results thereof ;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the Tea Act for the purpose ;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(e) what other steps Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force set up for evolving a viable and long term strategy for the growth of tea industry and promotion of exports, has considered and has made its recommendations on the subject.

(c) to (e) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Lead Bank Scheme

456. SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH :
DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 507 given in the Rajya

Sabha on the 8th May, 1973 and state the latest position in the implementation of the Lead Bank Scheme? -

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : The survey stage of the 'Lead Bank Scheme' is now virtually over and survey reports have been brought out for 316 out of the 338 districts. District Level Consultative Committees have been established in 279 districts. Of the 5741 offices opened by the banks, during the period 1-1-1970 to 31-8-1973, as many as 2280 were opened by the banks in their 'lead districts'.

Export of rose wood and sandal wood

457. SHRI M. B. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of rose wood and sandal wood exported during the last year and the names of the countries to which export was made ;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom ; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) :
(a) and (b) The required information is given below :

Item	Quantity	Value	Names of countries
(Rs. lakhs)			
Rose wood	26999 cu metres	817.27	Australia, Belgium, Denmark, France, W. Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Italy, Hungary, Japan, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A., Yugoslavia, Singapore, and other countries.
Sandal wood	381 Tonnes	51.14	Burma, France, Hongkong, Japan, Netherlands, Nigeria, Singapore, Sudan, U.K., U.S.A. and other countries.

(c) The export of rose wood and sandal wood is regulated with reference to the exportable surplus.

Foreign aid

458. SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the net foreign aid likely to be received during the current year as against the budgetary anticipation ;

(b) what are the reasons for the short-fall, if any, in the anticipated aid ; and

(c) what will be its likely effect on the country's Plan programmes ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MATES for 1973-74 include gross receipts for 1973-74 include gross receipt of Rs. 661.80 crores and principal repayments of Rs. 262.19 crores leaving net receipt from external loans at Rs. 399.61 crores. If the Budget estimates relating to interest payments of Rs. 184.33 crores are taken into account, the net foreign aid would amount to Rs. 215.28 crores. As of now, it is anticipated that these estimates will be realised.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mathrani Committee Report on pay scales of Officers of General Insurance Corporation

459. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question No. 698 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 7th August, 1973 and state :

(a) whether the report of the Mathrani Committee in regard to pay scales of officers of the General Insurance Corporation has since been received by Government ; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations made and the decision, if any, taken by Government thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. The report is under consideration. [See Appendix LXXXVI, Annexure No. 19].

R. B. I. suggestion regarding advances to Government by Nationalised Banks

460. SHRI SITARAM KESRI :

SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has suggested any steps to put a check on the advances made to Government by the nationalised banks ;

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

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) Right from the inception of the credit authorisation scheme in November 1965, prior authorisation of Reserve Bank has been necessary for grant of advances by all the scheduled commercial banks to Governments, both Central and State. Reserve Bank of India has not imposed any fresh restriction in this regard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Crisis in Handloom Industry in Kerala

461. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the handloom industry in Kerala is facing a crisis due to non-availability of yarn and the high cost of yarn and processing chemicals ; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to meet the situation ?