

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND -
EXPENDITURE (SHRI K.R. GANESH) :

(a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as early as possible.

ESCAPE OF PAKISTANI PRISONERS OF WAR

826. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pakistani POWs who escaped from their detention camps so far;

(b) how many out of these Pakistani POWs have been recaptured; and

(c) whether any security measures have been taken by Government; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : (a) Seven.

(b) Five.

(c) Necessary action has been taken to tighten the security measures further.

CREDIT BY NATIONALISED BANKS TO FARMERS

827. SHRIMATI SAVITA BEHEN : Will the minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to the news-item appearing in the Navbharat Times, dated the 18th May, 1972 under the caption "Bank rashtriya-karan ke bavajud kisan khali hath rah gaya";

(b) whether any enquiry has been made into the said allegation; and

(c) the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken by simplify the procedure for granting loans by nationalised banks to the farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y.B. CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grievances are being enquired into.

(c) Since nationalisation, the public sector banks have already taken steps both to simplify their loan application forms and rationalise their lending procedures. The matter is under constant review both by the Reserve Bank of India and the Banking Department.

All the public sector banks have come out with publicity brochures, explaining in simple language to illiterate farmers how agricultural loans may be obtained for different productive purposes and what the borrowing farmer has to do to secure such loans. The banks have also delegated more powers to the branch agents for sanctioning agricultural advances, especially to the small farmers. They are appointing more field staff for visiting farmlands of borrowers, appraising their loan applications with due regard to their cropping programme and practices and supervising the end-use of the advances. No mortgage of land is insisted upon by the public sector banks for making short-term crop advances upto prescribed ceiling. The State Governments are being urged to take up necessary administrative measures and introduce legislation as advised by the Expert group on State Enactments having a bearing on Commercial Banks' Lending to Agriculture so that the banks are in a position to ensure smoother flow of credit to Agriculture.

SUPPER CLUB OF ASHOKA HOTEL

828. SHRI HABIB TANVIR : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supper club of the Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi has been presenting Indian Folk and classical dances during dinner time every Tuesday; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH) :

(a) Ashoka Hotel has been presenting Folk and Mughal Court dances (light Kathak) at Supper Club on Tuesdays.

(b) The details are as follow: