

(c) and (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has identified a consortium led by GMR Infrastructure with Malaysian Airport Holding Berhard as the preferred bidder for implementation of the project. Government will endeavour to finalise the concession agreement with Hyderabad International Airport Limited at the earliest. However, no specific date has been fixed as consultations and detailed examination are under progress.

Institutional credit to farmers

35. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers who committed suicides mostly borrowed money from money lenders and not from institutional sources;

(b) the action taken for granting institutional credit to small farmers by adopting innovative methods to rescue them from the clutches of money lenders; and

(c) the measures proposed for a big push to public investment in rural areas to assist farmers in getting loans liberally?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There are reports to the effect that farmers have committed suicides due to their crop failure and consequent inability to repay the loans taken from the money lenders.

(b) and (c) The announcement made by the Government on 18th June, 2004 envisages the following relief measures for the farmers.

(i) Rescheduling/restructuring of loan of distressed farmers.

(ii) One Time Settlement (OTS) for small and marginal farmers.

(iii) Fresh finance for farmers whose earlier debts have been settled through compromise or writ off; and

(iv) Relief measures for farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders.

RBI and NABARD have issued guidelines on 24th June and 29th June, 2004 respectively to Commercial Banks, Cooperative and RRBs to provide relief to the farmers as envisaged in the announcement.

The Ground Level Credit Flow to Agriculture from all lending institutions will be enhanced to about Rs. 1,04,500 crores in 2004-05 against the estimated flow of Rs. 80,000 crores during 2003-04.

NABARD will also enhance its refinance support to Rural Cooperative Credit Institutions and RRBs to achieve the target set for agriculture lending. Relief measures envisaged and the proposed increase in refinance support are expected to greatly benefit the farmers.

Introduction of accounting standards

36. **SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:**
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board proposes to introduce accounting standards for preparation of financial statements to make the Central and State Government's accounts more transparent and user-friendly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Comptroller & Auditor General of India has constituted a Government Accounting Standards Advisory Board with Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General as Chairperson of the Board with the following responsibilities:

- (i) To formulate and propose standards that improve the usefulness of financial reports based on the needs of the financial report users.
- (ii) To keep standards current and reflect changes in the Government environment.
- (iii) To provide guidance on implementation of standards.
- (iv) To consider significant areas of accounting and financial reporting that can be improved through the standard setting process.
- (v) To improve the common understanding of the nature and purpose of information contained in financial reports.