

delivery stamps to various post offices in the country. It is expected that stamp impressions would now show improvement. Replacement of worn out stamps and seals, however, is a continuous process.

TRAI's Accounting Processes

1640. SHRI C.O. POULOSE:
SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Audit Section in the TRAI's Annual Report for 1998-99 has severely indicated the accounting practices followed by the authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) In their report on the accounts of TRAI for the year 1998-99 the Audit have pointed out instances of some irregularities in the Receipts and Payments Accounts, Income and Expenditure Accounts, expenditure on travelling etc. TRAI have indicated that they have taken action to streamline the procedures wherever necessary so as to avoid recurrence of such irregularities.

Financial Assistance to Agricultural end users

1641. SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering reducing agencies in providing agricultural finance to end users;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of advances provided by the NABARD for agriculture to State Cooperative Banks from 1st April, 1997 to 31st March, 2000, year-wise;

(d) the total advances to agricultural end users made out of the amount mentioned at (c) above;

(e) whether it is a fact that only a meagre amount of advances are met by NABARD for agricultural sector; and

(f) if so, what action Government propose to take to provide adequate finance to agricultural sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) There is not such proposal at present.

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

(c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance facilities to banks. The details of short-term refinance provided by NABARD to State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) for financing seasonal agricultural operations are as given below:

(Rs. Crore)			
Year	ST(SAO) Credit Limits Sanctioned	Maximum Out-standing borrowings	Percentage of Utilisation
1997-98	5210.03	4446.76	85.3
1998-99	5998.99	4498.01	75.0
1999-2000	6094.51	4951.45	81.2

The amount of refinance given by NABARD to State Co-operative banks under investment loans for Agricultural Sector are Rs. 333.54 crores, Rs. 340.84 crores and Rs. 460.10 crores respectively during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(d) NABARD's support to banks is by way of refinance, whereby banks disburse credit and thereafter claim refinance. Cooperative Banks add their own resources also be refinance given by NABARD, for lending to their constituents.

(e) The share of NABARD's refinance to ground level credit flow to agriculture sector for last 3 years is given below:

(Rs. Crore)			
Year	Total credit flow to Agriculture Sector from commercial banks, cooperative banks and RRBs	NABARD's Refinance	Share of NABARD's
1997-98	31956	9922	31%
1998-99\$	36897	10747	29%
1999-2000*	41764	11842	28%

\$Provisional

* Estimated

(f) In our country a multi-agency approach for dispensing agriculture credit is in operation through a wide network of branches of commercial banks, cooperative banks and Regional Rural Banks. The ground level flow of credit to agriculture sector has increased from Rs. 31,956 crores in 1997-98 to Rs. 41,764 crores in 1999-2000. This is expected to go upto Rs. 51,460 crores during the current year. The Reserve Bank of India and NABARD have taken several measures to further strengthen the flow of credit to farmers. Some of these are:

- (i) Introduction of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having good track record;
- (ii) Introduction of Kisan Credit and Scheme for agricultural borrowers;
- (iii) Banks have been advised to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of hightech agricultural projects;
- (iv) RBI has introduced simplification of loan applications, delegation of powers to branch managers, introduction of composite cash credit limit to farmers, introduction of new loan products, cash disbursement of loans, discretion to banks on matters relating to margin/security requirements for loans above Rs. 10,000/- and dispensing with "No Dues Certificates" as a compulsory requirement;
- (v) Any shortfall in the target of lending to agriculture has to be contributed to Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF), which has been established with NABARD for assisting State Governments and State-owned Corporations in quick completion of on-going projects relating to rural infrastructure.

Effect of Liberalization

1642. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the private companies have suffered loss during the first half of the current year due to the liberalization of economy in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the companies which have suffered loss during the first half of this year and details of their losses?