

[3 December, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) to (d) the total advances provided by Andhra Bank to priority sector and agriculture as on March, 2001 and March, 2002 are as under:

	March, 2001	{Rs. Crores} March, 2002
Total Priority Sector Advances	277.02	3401.21
Total Advances to Agriculture	1048.89	1389.07

It may be observed that the outstanding amounts have increased in absolute terms.

Review of agriculture lending by Bank is done on regular basis by Bank Boards as well as by RBI and Government.

(e) RBI has taken several steps to ensure the *flow* of credit to agriculture and rural sector. These include formulating Special Agricultural Credit Plans (SACPs) by Public Sector Banks, opening of Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches, introduction of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and issue of KCCs against specific targets issued every year, implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the High Level Committee on Agricultural Credit, assistance to States under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) maintained with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), introduction of micro-credit delivery system, etc.

World Bank loan outstanding against Andhra Pradesh

1430. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loan amount outstanding against Government of Andhra Pradesh to World Bank, IMF, and various other international Financial Institutions as on date;

(b) the details of total interest or service charges amount per year, being paid and kept outstanding by Andhra Pradesh Government to these International Financial Institutions as on date;

(c) whether the Central Government have given counter-guarantee to these International Financial Institutions on behalf of Andhra Pradesh Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAOVITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Under the provisions of the Constitution, the executive powers of a State extend to borrowing only within the territory of India. Also, under the VII Schedule of the Constitution, 'Foreign Loans' come under the Union list. Thus, State Governments cannot receive financial assistance from foreign countries/institutions directly. The external assistance in respect of projects implemented in various States are obtained by the Central Government and passed on to the States on different terms and conditions. Therefore, there is no outstanding loan against Government of Andhra Pradesh to World bank, IMF or other international financial Institutions. The State Government owes the loan component of the Additional Central Assistance (assistance obtained from external agencies) to the Central Government which as the principal borrower discharges its debt obligations to external agencies.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Exemption to Agricultural Marketing Committees from IT Act

1431. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States which have requested Government to exempt Agricultural Marketing Committees and Boards from the purview of Income Tax Act;

(b) whether Karnataka Government has also made a similar request; and

(c) if so, whether Government would take steps to exempt the above Committees/Boards from the purview of Income Tax Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A number of States including Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Delhi, Rajasthan, West Bengal have made such request.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

Siphoning of money by American companies

†1432. Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.