

tendered to State Governments by Government of India, necessary steps have been taken by many State Governments to formulate debt relief scheme covering loans given by cooperatives. For smooth and expeditious implementation of the scheme National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has issued suitable guidelines to all cooperative banks. On the basis of these guidelines and the procedure identifying the beneficiaries under the scheme the work in the States are at various stages and all the identified beneficiaries including small farmers/marginal farmers will be eligible for relief under the Scheme.

Report of Working Group of MODVAT

809. SHRI ANANTRAO
DESHMUKH:
KUMARI UMA BHARATI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "working group" to review the 'MODVAT SCHEME', has submitted its report to Union Government;

(b) if so, the important recommendations made by the group; and

(c) whether Union Government propose to implement these recommendations in near future and if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The important recommendations made by the group, are as under:

- (i) Extension of Modvat to Petroleum Sector, tobacco matches and cinema films, textiles and cereals is not recommended.

existing set-off notification in respect of some of the petroleum items and textile goods may be brought within the purview of Modvat Scheme.

(ii) Extension of Modvat to aerated water is recommended.

(iii) The time is not yet ripe for the introduction of comprehensive value added tax in India.

(iv) The national credit scheme under which input credit at rates higher than rates on which duty has been actually paid is given in respect of products manufactured by small scale units should be withdrawn as this system has resulted in certain distortion and misuse of Modvat scheme. It has also been found that this scheme discriminates against tiny units.

(v) Excise rules and the existing procedures should be amended to rationalise, simplify and improve the working of the Modvat scheme.

(vi) Urgent action should be taken regarding staff augmentation, computerisation training and orientation of the officers of the Department to take care of the additional items of work generated by the Modvat Scheme.

(c) The report is receiving the attention of the Government of India.

Conclusion of Tourist Places of Jammu Region in Tourist Map of India

810. SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA: Will Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state: