

(b) A site at Naharlagun near Itanagar has been identified for construction of an airport which may be suitable for operation of 50 seater aircraft. The State Government of Arunachal Pradesh has been advised to carry out a feasibility study, including environmental aspect. No allocation of funds has been made during VIIIth Five Year Plan.

Beedi Workers

588. SHRI N.J. RATHVA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the number of workers engaged in the Beedi Industry in certain States particularly in the tribal areas of Gujarat till date;

(b) the number of identity card holders and non identity card holders among them as on March, 1995, separately;

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to liberate them from the harassment/oppression of contract system;

(d) the rate on which Tendu (ebony) leaf is made available to the Beedi workers in the country particularly in the tribal areas of the State and the rate of daily wages to be paid to them;

(e) whether the Government are aware of irregularities being committed by major industrialists to escape from cess on Beedi; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Due to peculiar conditions prevailing in the beedi industry, it has not been considered feasible to abolish contract labour system. The State Governments have been requested to ensure strict implementation of the Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 and setting up Tripartite Committees to standardise issue of raw material etc. to prevent exploitation of beedi workers.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e) and (f) Stringent anti-evasion measures and frequent surprise checks are conducted by the Central Board of Excise and Customs and penalty is imposed wherever considered necessary after issue of show cause notice. .

Loan applications under P.M.R.Y.

589. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of loan applications received from

unemployed youths in Delhi under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana since the inception of the scheme by the private sector banks, bank-wise;

(b) the number of loan applications sanctioned, rejected and pending with the reasons for rejection and pendency;

(c) whether the private sector banks are not giving loans for purchase of vehicles, commercial or private, neither these are giving loans for purchase of modern gadgets, nor extending overdraft facility to the small and medium traders, industrialists etc.;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of the private banks in Delhi that extend the said facilities and to how many people have they extended such facilities in the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Beedi and Cigar Workers

590. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have given any assurance to trade union for improving the conditions of Beedi and Cigar workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether periodic review of the various welfare scheme for them is being done;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response for delay in establishment of Expert Committee on various problems affecting Beedi and Tobacco sector ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However the Government stand committed for improving the conditions of beedi and cigar workers.

(c) and (d) The tripartite Central Advisory Committee constituted by the Ministry of Labour and the Advisory Committees constituted by the State Governments under the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, inter-alia, review the various welfare scheme for beedi workers.

(e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have constituted an Expert Committee, in view of the proposed legislation on use of tobacco and tobacco products, to go into different aspects of tobacco use.

World Economic Forum

591. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he led a delegation to the World Economic Forum's 1996 annual meeting at Davos during