

suspended and supplementary and additional licenses were abolished. Some other policy measures including industrial policy reforms are expected to be announced during the current session of the Parliament.

Unemployment
Loans to Unemployed Youth

*7. DR. A. K. PATEL:

SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) The number of persons who were sanctioned loans by commercial banks under the Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the rate of interest charged on such loans;

(c) the present financial limit upto which loans can be sanctioned for different sectors under this scheme and when this limit was fixed last;

(d) whether the Union Government have any proposal for upward revision of this limit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The commercial banks sanctioned loans to 1.20 lakhs, 1.92 lakhs and 1.08 lakhs beneficiaries during the years 1987-88, 1988-89 and 1989-90 under the scheme.

(b) The rates of interest with effect from September, 1991 will range from 10 per cent to 14 per cent per annum depending upon the size of the loans. Prior to that date, the rate was 10 per cent in backward areas and 12 per cent in other areas.

(c) The ceiling on loans for industrial ventures is Rs. 35,000/-, for service ventures Rs. 25,000/- and for

business ventures Rs. 15,000/-. These limits are in force from the year 1986-87.

(d) and (e) No change is contemplated at present.

36 **Export of Jute Goods**

*8. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export earnings from jute goods have been on the decline since early eighties;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to step up the export of jute goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Exports of jute goods declined from the level of Rs. 327.4 crore in 1980-81 to the level of Rs. 298.8 crore in 1990-91 due to a variety of reasons including, inter-alia, high cost of production due to low productivity of both machine and labour, lack of modernisation, increased usage of synthetic substitutes and competition from Bangladesh.

(c) Government have initiated several measures to promote modernisation and diversification of the jute industry with a view to increasing exports. These measures include setting up of a Jute Modernisation Fund, import of specified items of jute machinery on concessional rates of duty, waiver of excise duty on the manufacture of diversified jute products, marketing assistance for export of diversified jute products, introduction of export obligation on mills given DGS & D orders, implementation of Export Price Stabilisation Fund Scheme for securing global tenders for supply of jute bags, etc.