

ment on Industrial Policy emphasis will be placed on controlling and regulating monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices. Simultaneously, the newly empowered MRTP Commission will be authorised to initiate investigation *suo moto* or on complaints received from individual consumers or classes of consumers in regard to monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices.

(d) The additional responsibilities to be assigned to the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) as envisaged in the Statement on Industrial Policy will need to be given effect to by way of suitable amendments to the MRTP Act, 1969. Efforts would be made to ensure that MRTP Commission would be suitably equipped to undertake these additional responsibilities.

Acquisition of Closed Jute Mills in Europe

4051. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union government have received any proposal for acquisition of closed jute mills in Europe;

(b) if so, the rational in this venture when scores of jute mills lie closed within the country;

(c) the financial implications thereof in terms of foreign exchange; and

(d) the stage at which this proposal stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir. A private sector jute mill has submitted a proposal to the Government.

(b) It is proposed to capture the growing market for jute fabrics in Europe by setting up a jute mill there to overcome the imposition of any tariff barriers in the future.

(c) The project is estimated to cost £ 4.0 lakhs. It is estimated that net foreign exchange earnings shall accrue from the project within a period of five years.

(d) The proposal was approved in the meeting of Inter Ministerial Committee for Joint Ventures Abroad, subject to certain conditions.

Promotion of SC/ST Employees in Central Bank of India

4052. DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bank of India had effected promotions from clerical to JMG Scale-I under All India Service Test-1989 by giving due and permissible representation/share to SC/ST candidates as per Ministry of Home Affairs (DP&AR) O.M. No. 36012/3/78-Estt. (SCT) dated 9-2-82;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the plans to cover the due representation;

(c) whether the Bank proposes to provide for due representation of SC/ST under All India Service Test-1989 from the same date on which other candidates have been promoted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Bank has conducted a special test to clear the backlog

of STs only; and

(f) if so, the number of vacancies filled up as a result of the said test?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) Central Bank of India has reported that a total of 136 vacancies were filled by it in two lots as under :

With effect from	SC	ST	General
1-11-90	5	9	54
29-12-90	4	50	14
TOTAL	9	59	68

As there was oldest backlog in the ST category for promotions from clerical to JMGS-I cadre, it had conducted a special All India Service Test for ST category on 18-11-90 and promoted 50 ST candidates with effect from 29-12-90. Since these vacancies, reserved for the Scheduled Tribe candidates, have been filled through Special Promotion exercise owing to such candidates not becoming available through normal promotion process, it is not possible to ante-date their promotion dates.

Mobilisation of Savings by NHB

4053. SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the scheme launched by the National Housing Bank for mobilising savings from the general public; and

(b) the details of their operation and achievements, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Housing Bank (NHB) launched a loan-linked savings scheme for the general public known as the Home Loan Account Scheme (HLAS) on July 1, 1989 which is being implemented through the scheduled commercial banks and select housing finance companies. Under the HLAS any individual not owning a house/flat/apartment anywhere in India can open an account in the scheduled commercial banks or select housing finance companies. The minimum contribution is Rs. 30 per month and there is no ceiling on the amount to be saved under the scheme. The rate of return on deposits under HLAS is 10% compounded annually. The minimum period of savings is 5 years to be eligible for a housing loan under the scheme.

As per the report received from NHB more than 5 lakh accounts were opened under HLA Scheme with total deposits of about Rs. 92 crores by the end of June, 1991.

Export of Beedies

4054. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of beedies exported during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise; and

(b) the foreign exchange earned from such exports?