

Fixing of responsibility on every Bank Branch to help growth of prescribed minimum number of Small Industries in Rural/Urban Areas

6340. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to fix responsibility on every Bank Branch, in the rural and urban areas to help the growth of the prescribed minimum number of small industries every year in its areas of work; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the proposal and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). As the pace of development of small scale industries in the rural and urban areas is influenced by several factors like availability of raw materials, market for the products, provision of timely credit, etc.; the overall responsibility for the development of small scale industry cannot solely rest with the banks. However, the banks have been continually advised to ensure that timely credit is provided to viable small scale industries. The outstanding of advances by public sector banks to small scale industries, has increased from Rs. 25145 lakhs on the eve of nationalisation to Rs. 53028 lakhs as on the last Friday of June, 1972.

Memorandum from All India Small Scale Lamp Manufacturers Association

6341. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Small Scale Lamp Manufacturers Association has submitted a Memorandum to his Ministry for the grant of exemption from the proposed excise duty on the goods manufactured by them; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The memorandum of the Association is under examination.

Programme for Co-ordination and Development of Village Industries

6342. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has prepared any programme for the coordination and development of village industries, including Khadi; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). No programme as such has been evolved so far in this Ministry. The broad recommendation of Ashok Mehta Committee in this regard were the establishment of a new organizational set up, where a Rural Industries Commission would take the place of the present Khadi & Village Industries Commission and be the apex body to promote and co-ordinate the development of all cottage and small industries in the rural areas. The body which would have statutory powers, would render advice, undertake and sponsor training and research and also coordinate the implementation of the planned programmes.

While bodies like the Handicrafts Board, Small Scale Industries Board, Coir Board, etc. may continue as expert bodies in their respective fields, there would be joint consultations between them and Rural Industries Commission. For this, appropriate co-ordinating committees could be set up. The question of setting up such a Rural Industries Commission is being examined.