

The auction system has also ensured that all Virginia tobacco are sold within a reasonable time and that properly graded virginia tobaccos are brought to the auction platforms. The growers also got a higher average price for their product than last year.

Proposal to entrust entire distribution of copper to MMTC

729. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to entrust the entire distribution of copper to the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation;

(b) whether MMTC is able to handle distribution net-work effectively and if so, on what background; and

(c) the details of the arrangements made or going to be made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The proposals for marketing/distribution of indigenously produced copper by MMTC is under consideration. No final decision has yet been taken.

Loans given by Andhra Bank under 20 Point Programme

730. SHRI V. TULSI RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans given by the Andhra Bank in Andhra Pradesh for the upliftment of the poor and backward classes under the 20-Point Programme of the Prime Minister during the last two years as on the 30th June, 1985;

(b) the total amount of loans given to the industrialists and big business magnates during the same period;

(c) the reasons for disparity between the two; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to streamline the procedure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Present data reporting system does not yield State-wise information in respect of each bank under various schemes launched under New 20 Point Programme. However, as per the latest available information the all-India position of Andhra Bank as on the last Friday of March, 1985 regarding advances to weaker sections has been as under;

| No. of accounts | Balance Outstanding |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 5.20 lakhs | Rs. 111.32 crores |

The outstanding loan amount as at the end of Dec. '84 against the credit limits of rupees one crore and above sanctioned by the Andhra Bank to the industrial units registered in Andhra Pradesh was Rs. 3082.34 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The banks sanction credit limits as per the overall policy framework laid down by the Govt. and RBI. The banks provide only need-based finance irrespective of the category of borrower. The banks have been asked to increase the flow of credit to priority sector and weaker sections and the performance of Andhra Bank has been as follows :-

| | (Percentage to total advances as at the end of March, 1985) | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| | Target | Achievement |
| Advances to Priority Sector | 40% | 40.3% |
| Advances to Weaker Sections | 10% | 13.3% |

Uniform rates for issue of bank drafts

731. SHRI KAMAL PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :