

(c) to (e). While the position in regard to the levy of excise duty is as stated above, the Bidi industry and others are eligible to avail of a number of other incentives offered for promoting increased use of solar power.

Small Scale Industries

1991. SHRI LOKANATH
CHOUDHURY:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
S H R I
SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to stop gradually all tax and credit concessions to small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). In view of the ensuing Budget 1993-94 it is not possible to offer any comments at this state.

[*Translation*]

Loan From IDA

1992. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA:
SHRI C. SREENIVAASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has sought assistance/soft loan from the International Development Association;

(b) if so, whether the Association has

agreed to give the required assistance;

(c) that amount thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d) India is one of the largest borrowers from the World Bank group and has received loans and credits of over US\$ 35 billion to date. Assistance from the International Development Association is available to borrowers like India on a service charge of 0.75%, with commitment charge on undisbursed balances, and in repayable over 35 years a further grace period of 10 years. At present, the total amount of IDA assistance approved for India stands at US\$ 7946.64 million.

[*English*]

Unemployed Persons

1993. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of unemployed persons till date, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to provide employment to them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) The number of persons, not all of whom are necessarily unemployed, registered with the Employment Exchanges as on August, 31st, 1992, State and Union Territory-wise, is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The strategy of the Eighth Five