

(a) the number of unemployed youths in Gujarat who have sought loan from Scheduled Commercial Banks for self employment during the last three years;

(b) the number of the youths out of them provided loans by the banks; and

(c) the reasons for not providing the loans by the banks to the remaining youths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The number of applications for loans received by banks from the sponsoring agencies in Gujarat and the number of applications sanctioned loans under the various Government sponsored self employment generating schemes, such as, Self Employment Scheme for Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), Scheme of Urban Micro Enterprises (SUME) and Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana ((PMRY) for Educated Unemployed Youth, during the last 3 years are indicated below :-

Year	No. of applications received	No. of applications sanctioned
1991-92	10723	6013
1992-93	5630	4686
1993-94*	6109	2461

* Data Provisional

The banks normally reject those applications where projects are not viable/ where beneficiaries are not eligible to be assisted under the Scheme/beneficiary is unable to comply with the stipulated requirements under the scheme.

[English]

Trade Blocs

2955. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has studied the possible adverse impact of Trade Blocs on Indian export potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sought any special dispensation with Trade Blocs; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by the Government with regard to Trade Blocs ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). Although the multilateral trading system based on the GATT remains intact, there is a growing trend towards the formation of regional trading blocs. India is not a member of any of these trading blocs. The impact of trading blocs on the outside world would depend on how they conduct themselves. If they turn inward looking with 'strategically determined' external tariffs, it could cause

considerable trade diversion. If on the other hand they remain outwardly oriented, the trade diversion effects may be relatively limited.

India's capacity to expand its global exports beyond the present share of less than 0.5 per cent will depend largely on efforts to upgrade the basic competitiveness of prices, quality and delivery of our products. Hence the likely impact of the formation of regional trading blocs on India's external trade is not expected to be very significant.

India had sought membership of the APEC but the response has not been positive. In April 1992 we established a sectoral dialogue with the ASEAN to promote trade, investment and tourism between the two sides within the multilateral framework.

Recently India has signed an umbrella agreement on economic co-operation with the EEC.

Free Trade Economic Zone

2956. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from some Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) for conversion of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands into a Free Trading Zone on the pattern of Singapore and Hongkong;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to

(c). Although suggestions from NRIs for establishing as Free Port have been received from time to time, no concrete proposal has been made. Government had, however, appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Raunaq Singh to go into the desirability and feasibility of setting up a Free Port in the country. The Committee, whose recommendations are under examination, did not consider the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as a suitable location.

Generation of Employment

2957. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: SHRIMATI BIBHU KUMARI DEVI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the implementation of several schemes the average growth rate of employment has remained static for the past two decades;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any study to find out the causes;

(c) the details about the average growth rate of employment for the last five years; and

(d) the steps proposed to increase the growth rate of employment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Comparable estimates of employment, based on comprehensive surveys on employment and unemployment, conducted by the NSSO at quinquennial intervals, are available for 1972-73, 1977-78, 1983 and