

Orissa Project, saving in foreign exchange etc. will be known when the project comes up for an investment decision after scrutiny by the appraisal agencies of Government.

**Reservations for S.C./S.T. Employees in United India Insurance Company**

1362. SHRI THAZHAI M. KARUNAUITHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India orders providing reservations for SC/ST employees at the time of appointment, promotion and confirmations have not been followed in the United India Insurance Company, Madras and if so, why;

(b) if not followed, when this will be followed and when the backlogs will be completed; and

(c) is there any proposal to fix responsibility on those who have failed to implement these orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Allocation of Credit to Priority Sector**

1363. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks have decided to allocate 40 per cent of credit to the priority sectors as compared to 33.3 per cent in the past;

(b) whether any decision to enlarge the present definition of the 'priority sector' has been made; and

(c) which new categories of beneficiaries will be assisted by the nationalised banks in matters of credit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAGANNATH PAHADIA): (a) to (c).

Recently, the public sector banks have been advised to endeavour to raise the share of the 'Priority Sectors' in their aggregate credit to the level of 40 per cent over the next five years. They have also been advised to ensure that a significant proportion of this enlarged priority sector credit is provided to the weaker segments of the society who are beneficiaries of the 20 Point Programme.

While no major change has been effected in the definition of priority sectors, it is kept under continual review to be in consonance with the changing requirements of the economy.

**Development of "Bhimashankar" in Poona District as a Tourist Spot**

1364. SHRI V. N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra have recommended that Bhimashankar in Poona District should be developed as a tourist spot; and

(b) whether Government have accepted the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Excise Revenue from Bidis**

1365. SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) what was the estimated excise revenue to be collected and the actual excise collected from bidis during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) is his Ministry aware that large scale excise evasion and false branding is taking place, by manufacturers who clear the goods as non branded and later label them in the market place;