

loan for purchase of machinery and equipment.

As regards setting up of more units in Phase-II of the project, no entrepreneurs have been selected and no decision has been taken about the Government grant or funding pattern.

Value added Tax System

1055. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce value added tax in place of sales tax/turnover tax from the current year; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Government in regard to implementation of value added tax system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. However, Conference of State Finance Ministers was held on 27th May, 1994 in Delhi to discuss implications of introducing value added tax and other matters. The Conference resolved to constitute a Committee of State Finance Ministers to examine all aspects of tax reforms including Value Added Tax. In pursuance of the resolution, the Government has constituted a Committee of Finance Ministers of 11 States.

Committee on Employees Provident Fund Act

1056. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the committee appointed to look into the problems about the E.P.F. arrears has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The major recommendations of the Sub-Committee of the Consultative Committee of Parliament, *inter-alia*, relate to making non-payment of the EPF/ESI dues a non-bailable offence, non-payment of the employers' share a criminal breach of trust, deposit of 75% of the amount as compulsory before the employer seeks judicial intervention setting up of special courts etc.

The Government has decided to have the report first considered by the ESI Corporation and the Central Board of Trustees, EPF.

Indian Tourist

1057. DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage tourism culture among the Indians;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for improving the global and regional