

been constituted to process the applications received and to recommend suitable cases to the bank branches. The loan proposals are to be disposed of by the Branch Manager within 14 days from the date of receipt.

[English]

**Condition of Bidri Industry and Bidri Craftsmen**

1856. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bidri industry is in a bad state with less domestic demand and declining exports;

(b) if so, whether Government have made a survey of the problems of the bidri artisans and this ancient art; and

(c) the special steps under consideration of Government to improve the condition of Bidri art and its craftsmen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The figures of domestic sales of bidriware are not available. However, according to the latest available data, the value of exports of bidriware were Rs. 7.00 lakhs in 1980-81, Rs. 18.59 lakhs in 1981-82 and Rs. 11.76 lakhs in 1982-83.

(b) A survey of artmetalware industry at selected Centres was taken up in 1981 which included bidriwares also.

(c) 1. During the last 3 years Bidri craftsmen were taken to product promotion programmes and market meets held at Madras, Trivandrum, Calicut, Bombay, Calcutta and Bangalore.

2. Work shed-cum-housing complex is being set up by Government of Karnataka at Bidar with a view to provide better working conditions to bidri craftsmen.

**Loan for Kolaghat Thermal Power Project from I.D.B.I.**

1858. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Electricity Development Corporation has approached the Industrial Development Bank of India for a loan of Rs. 25 crores to finance Kolaghat Thermal Power Project among others;

(b) if so, whether the loan has been granted; and

(c) if not, when it will be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the West Bengal Power Development Corporation (WBPDC) has approached financial institutions for a rupee term loan of rupees three hundred crores for financing the Kolaghat Thermal Power Plant-Phase II. The WBPDC has also sought an *ad-hoc* disbursement of rupees thirty crores to meet its urgent fund requirements. Financial institutions have no such system for *ad-hoc* disbursements. The appraisal of the project has been taken up by the IDBI in consultation with Central Electricity Authority.

**Export Plants for Public Sector Undertakings Projects**

1859. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision that every public sector undertaking will hereafter export a certain minimum percentage of its total production;

(b) if so, whether all the public sector undertakings have been asked to formulate detailed export plans of their products; and

(c) if so, the response of the public sector undertakings to the decision?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b). At a meeting of Public Sector Undertakings in the field of engineering, the undertakings were asked to formulate export plans as a part of the overall corporate plan of the undertakings and strive to export some percentage of the total production depending upon the product-