

(b) A.E.P. is a West Bengal State Government Scheme started in 1973. The benefit under the scheme is extended in the form of margin money/seed money at the rate of 10% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 75,000/-. Banks also provide loan upto 75% to 80% under the Equity Assistance Scheme and the rest is subscribed by the beneficiary. Under the Scheme priority is given to unemployed/Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe candidates and handicapped persons.

Setting up of Indo-Belgium Joint Commission

7003. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to boost economic cooperation with Belgium;

(b) whether a joint commission is proposed to be set up by both countries keeping in view the aforesaid objective;

(c) if so, when such joint commission is expected to set up; and

(d) the steps taken to boost two way trade between them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Government has continued to take steps towards an improvement in bilateral economic and commercial relations with Belgium, among other countries.

(b) and (c). A Belgo-Indian Joint Committee already exists. However, Belgian Government have suggested that a basic agreement on Economic, Industrial Scientific and Technological cooperation may be signed between the two countries

consistent with the membership of Belgium of the European Common Market and for a comprehensive bilateral cooperation framework.

(d) A review of bilateral commercial relations was undertaken in February 1988 in order to lend a thrust to increase bilateral commercial and industrial cooperation.

Revision of Pay Scales of Bank Employees

7004. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the replies given on 20 November, 1987 to Unstarred Question No. 2064 and 2241 regarding revision of pay-scales of class III bank employees and strike call by bank employees federation, respectively, and state:

(a) whether the negotiations have since been finalised;

(b) if so, the details of issues which have been sorted out;

(c) the time by which the new pay-scales of workmen staff of public sector banks are likely to be announced;

(d) whether there is great resentment amongst the workers for lower pay scales after the revision of the pay scales of the Government employees from 1 January, 1986; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to give priority to the negotiations and settlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Indian Banks' Association which is the negotiating body from the