

Schemes, and is also undertaking Research.

Tea

The Tea Board is implementing a New Tea Unit Financing Scheme under which subsidy is given for extension of tea cultivation in the non-traditional areas which include Idduki district of Kerala, Kodagu district of Karnataka.

Coffee

The Coffee Board is implementing programme to provide credit for bringing more area under coffee, training projects to train personnel in coffee culture, opening of demonstration farms and strengthening of research/extension.

Rubber

The Rubber Board is implementing amongst others Rubber Plantation Development Scheme to provide subsidy to small growers, subsidy for poly bag plants, research farms, nucleus rubber estate and training centre, Rubber Research-cum-Development Station, Extension Training and Advisory service Scheme etc. These are available to growers in the Southern Region also.

Tobacco

The Tobacco Board has a Scheme to improve the quality and yield of fluecured Virginia Tobacco, to identify new areas for growing quality tobacco, to control pest and disease, to supply materials for curing barns and other inputs used in tobacco cultivation on subsidy, and to increase in production of burley in areas where high quality burley can be grown.

Technical Services by Bank Branches to Young Entrepreneurs

1264. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted commercial banks to set up specialised branches in various cities to provide comprehensive and total technical services to young entrepreneurs;

(b) if so, the names of the States/cities where such branches are likely to be opened and the time by which these will start functioning; and

(c) the type of technical services proposed to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not yet received any request from banks for opening of specialised branches to provide comprehensive and total technical services to young entrepreneurs only. The needs of borrowers including entrepreneurs of small scale units are being met by the existing branches of the banks.

Railway Link to Agartala

1265. SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to link Agartala with railway line during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Proposals for construction of new lines in the Eighth Plan have not yet been finalised. A Final Location Survey for a rail link to Agartala, along with a study for a bi-modal option, i.e., partly by rail and balance by road is in progress.

Opening of Branches of Foreign Trade Bank of Soviet Union in India

1266. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: