

(b) if so, how much of funds has been allocated for the current year by the Railways; and

(c) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 9.85 crores.

(c) This will depend upon the availability of funds in the coming years.

[*Translation*]

Suspension of Train Services at Kanpur

5247. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment have been made of the loss suffered by Railways due to cancellation of trains via Kanpur during the period textile workers staged dharna at rail tracks there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Though precise quantification is not possible, direct losses alone in passenger and freight operation are estimated to be about Rs. 5 crores

Minimum Statutory Price for Lac

5248. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lac growers of the country are not getting remunerative prices;

(b) whether Government have received a proposal to fix a minimum statutory price for lac; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The lac growers in the country have not been getting remunerative prices on account of fall in prices of sticklac during the last 2 F(1,2) years. However, the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Welfare is making efforts alongwith State Tribal Development Federations to ensure that tribals producing lac get remunerative prices.

Quota for Handicapped

5249. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any reserved quota of seats for handicapped persons; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Due to acute shortage of reserved accommodation *vis-a-vis* the demand, it is not feasible to set aside a separate quota for handicapped persons.

Concessions to SC/ST Entrepreneurs by Banks and Financial Institutions

5250. SHRI HET RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any concession is given to the SC/ST entrepreneurs by the public sector banks and the public financial institu-

tions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the number of SC/ST entrepreneurs benefited during the last three years as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The advances given by public sector banks to members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are treated as advances to weaker sections of the society for which a specific target is given to the banks. On bank advances to professionals and self employed persons belonging to SC/ST the rates of interest on term loans and on other loans are 13.5% per annum and 14.0% per annum respectively.

Under the composite loan scheme formulated by Industrial Development Bank of India (DBI)—SC/ST entrepreneurs can avail of credit Rs. 50,000/- for small scale units at an interest rate of 10% per annum. Under general refinance scheme of National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), rural artisans belonging to SC/ST can avail of composite loans upto Rs. 30,000/- at an interest rate of 10% per annum. NABARD also provides refinance for loans upto Rs. 5 lakhs given to SC/ST beneficiaries, for setting up small scale units.

Reserve Bank of India has stated that their data reporting system does not generate the information relating to the number of SC/ST beneficiaries assisted in a particular year under various schemes. However, the total outstanding priority sector advances of public sector banks to the members of SC/ST, as at the end of December, 1988 were Rs. 2502.39 crores in 81.41 lakh borrowal accounts.

Setting up of export oriented units in Mauritius

5251. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been received from Mauritius for setting up of Export Oriented Units in that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision has been taken in the matter;

(d) if so, the details of industrial units selected for the purpose; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Mauritius has been inviting Indian entrepreneurs to set up export-oriented industries in Mauritius.

(b) Areas suggested for setting up such industries so far are:

(i) Plastic toys; (ii) Neckties; (iii) automobile parts (iv) Jewelleries (v) Computer Software (vi) Hand-tools; (vii) Metal furniture (viii) Glass-ware and bottles; (ix) Locks and keys for wooden openings (x) Assembly of tractors.

(c) to (e). It is for Indian entrepreneurs to select the areas where they want to set up industries.

As and when any proposal for setting up industries is received, the same is considered by Govt. and approval accorded.

Recently, approval has been given for setting up a Spinning mill in Mauritius.