

Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to all Scheduled Commercial Banks on housing finance which *inter-alia* provide that loans to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000 be provided at an interest rate of 4% per annum. The Reserve Bank of India has further advised the banks that out of the total allocation for lending either directly to individuals or group of individuals or indirectly by way of terms loans to housing finance agencies, housing boards, HUDCO etc., care should be taken to ensure that atleast 50% of the amount lent is used for beneficiaries belonging to SC/STs, economically weaker sections and low income groups.

[English]

West Coast Railway

396. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any of the beneficiary States have proposed to provide financial assistance for completion of West Coast Railway project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Setting Up of Small Industries Development Bank

397. SHRI H.G. RAMULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a Small Industries Development Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Government are considering to set up a Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) as a subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) to cater to the financial needs of small scale and tiny industries. SIDBI's equity will be Rs. 250 crores and it will have its own separate Board of Directors, including representatives from the Small Scale Sector. SIDBI when set up would administer both the Small Industries Development Fund and National Equity Fund set up in the IDBI.

Expansion of Tea Production Areas in North East

398. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been steps to expand the tea production areas in the North Eastern region through experiments conducted in Manipur and adjoining areas;

(b) if so, the areas covered and the amount spent with the results thereof; and

(c) whether Government have involved the State Government of Manipur in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). All the North East-