

include dairy farming, poultry, fisheries, horticulture, etc.

(iii) Direct individual loans to small farmers granted after January 1, 1978, not exceeding Rs. 2500/- whether short, medium or long-term, would be eligible for refinance from the Reserve Bank of India at the bank rate i.e. 9%. Banks will be expected not to charge more than 11% on such loans irrespective of whether refinance is obtained from the Reserve Bank or not.

(iv) The extent of refinance would be limited to 50% of total advances, under (iii) above, disbursed by the bank concerned from January 1, 1978 onwards.

Advancing of loans by Nationalised Banks for setting up Small Scale Industries

5023. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that under a new scheme a proposal to advance loans by the nationalised banks to Harijans for setting up small scale industries is under consideration of the Government ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the amount that have been earmarked for the scheme and the time by which it is to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H.M. PATEL) :

(a) to (c). Recently the Ministry of Industry have introduced a new scheme with a view to providing financial assistance by way of margin or seed money to State Governments to enable them to expand their activities for promotion of small scale industries. The scheme provides for margin money assistance to units in which investment on plant and machinery does not exceed Rs. 1 lakh.

In the case of entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Casts and Scheduled Tribes the seed money assistance is up to 15 per cent of total fixed capital investment or Rs. 20,000/- whichever is lower; whereas in other cases the limit is 10 per cent of the total investment. It is hoped that with the implementation of this Scheme

jointly by the State Governments and the financing institutions including, Public Sector banks credit to the weaker sections of the community, especially to the Harijans will increase. During 1977-78 a sum of Rs. 4 crore is being provided under the margin money scheme by the Government of India.

Purchase of bungalow at Juhu by Aga Khan

5024. SHRI D.D. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state whether, as reported in the August issue of the monthly Gujarati named "Volunteer" published from Bombay the Aga Khan proposes to purchase a bungalow at Juhu and pay its price to some one either wholly or partially in foreign exchange abroad and has the Government granted the necessary permission ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI H.M. PATEL) :

The Aga Khan, being a foreign national, is required to obtain the permission of the Reserve Bank of India under Section 31 of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act of 1973 to acquire/purchase a bungalow in India. According to the information available with the Reserve Bank, he has not so far made any application to them for the purchase of a bungalow at Juhu. Accordingly, the question of grant of necessary permission by Government does not arise.

Reduction of Excise Duty on Petrol

5025. SHRI DURGA CHAND : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there is any proposal in Government's consideration to reduce excise duty on petrol ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) to what extent there has been an increase of Excise Duty on petrol during the last three years, year-wise ;

(d) whether there is any proposal to introduce dual policy for petrol price on pattern of levy sugar; and

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