

Assistance to Small Scale/Primary Producers by STC

3535. SHRI P. M. SAYEED;
SHRI NIHAR LASKAR;
SHRI A. R. BADRI
NARAYAN;
SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-
SHEKHARA MURTHY;

Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has undertaken a major programme for intensifying assistance to the small scale sector and primary producers to boost exports;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed programme;

(c) to what extent the assistance to the small scale sector in the promotion of the exports has been increased; and

(d) whether technical collaboration has also been arranged with the overseas buyers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BEG): (a) Yes, Sir.

Statement

(b) and (c). The Small Scale Sector is being assisted by the State Trading Corporation in the promotion of its exports through a consortium approach. The small scale units are being organised in viable groups to develop reliable supply base. A number of new items have been identified for export in consultation with the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries). State Trading Corporation is also assisting the small scale units through upgradation of their technology, supply of critical inputs, supply of machinery and equipment, inprocess quality control and by extending financial support.

Recently the Corporation had organised a National Workshop to bring together all the agencies involved in the development of exports of small scale industries products. Following the workshop's recommendations a Small Scale Industries Division has been set up in the Corporation.

With a view to have better rapport and coordination with the State Government Organisations in their export development efforts, STC is also planning to open branch offices in different states.

(d) Wherever necessary, S.T.C. arranges technical collaborations with the overseas buyers to upgrade the product and increase productivity. At present the Corporation has such collaborations with Hungary for production of shoe-uppers, Australia for export of Rug by balls and Italy for designing of leather garments.

News-item captioned "European Economic ills Hit India—EEC accord"

3536. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK;
SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA;
DR. BIJOY MONDAL;

Will the DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press report in the "Times of India" dated 18th February, 1979 under the caption "European Economic ills hit India—EEC accord"; and

(b) what steps have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government of India in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Press Report in the *Times of India* dated 18th February under the caption "European Economic