

(b) if so, the areas identified and the type of projects to be undertaken ;

(c) whether Finland has offered Technical Collaboration for the expansion of Neapanagar News Print Factory in Madhya Pradesh ; and

(d) if, so, the decision taken by Government thereon and other details ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) At the last meeting of the Indo-Finnish Joint Commission it was agreed that the sectors like mining and metallurgy, forestry aforestation of cold deserts, leather technology, paper and pulp industry and energy offered prospects for increased co-operation between India and Finland.

(c) and (d). A Finnish firm of Consultants, M/s. Jaako Poyry had carried out a study about 2 years ago with regard to the modernisation requirements of the Nepa mills. There has, however, been no proposal with regard to the technical collaboration for the expansion of Nepa Mills.

**Additional Credit to Sugar  
Factory to pay off Cane  
Arrears**

10585. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Commercial banks have been asked to consider on merits the case of each individual sugar mill for additional credit facilities to pay off cane arrears which amounted to Rs. 142 crore as on February 15 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Appreciating the need of the sugar industry for larger credit assistance, the Reserve Bank of India, as an immediate measure, had permitted the banks at the very beginning of the sugar season to allow working capital limits to sugar mills upto the level of 100% of the maximum utilisation of the previous season without obtaining its prior authorisation and to approach it well in time for higher limits in respect of individual mills. During the course of this season, the RBI permitted the banks having a large number of pending applications to permit, as an *ad hoc* measure, enhancement of credit limits to the applicant mills upto 125% of their last year's peak level drawings so as to ensure that pending the scrutiny of proposals, production of sugar was not hampered. The machinery under Credit Authorisation Scheme has been geared up for expeditious disposal of proposals for enhanced limits for sugar mills. They have also provided discretionary finance to banks, which were experiencing liquidity difficulty, to enable them to meet essential production credit requirements of vital sectors, including sugar industry. Government and the Reserve Bank have always endeavoured to ensure liquidation of cane dues by the sugar mills without delay. Towards this objective, the banks have been advised to monitor the clearance of arrears of payments by mills to sugarcane growers and to ensure that they not only provide credit to mills for payment to the growers but also have arrangements through which it is ensured that the growers get their dues.

**Electronic Export Processing Zone**

10586. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some units in Santa Cruz Electronic Export Processing