

way of credit to the maximum extent possible in the implementation of the Integrated Rural Development Programme. The total term credit mobilised during 1980-81 was Rs. 207 crores. This increased to Rs. 470 crores during 1981-82.

Progress in respect of the implementation of the Programme is reviewed from time to time at State/regional/national levels and difficulties as are pointed out by the States in respect of the implementation of the Programme are, where possible, duly taken care of.

Applications for Distribution of Loans from Certain Districts of Gujarat for Cottage and Small Scale Industries

5233. SHRI RAMJIBHAI MAVANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has received thousands of applications from Rajkot, Bulsar, Bhavnagar, Amreli and other districts of Gujarat for cottage industries and small scale industries through District Industrial Development Centre under "BANKBAL" scheme so as to distribute loans and aids by various banks;

(b) if so, the number of such applications received during 1st February, 1980, 30th June, 1982 from above districts;

(c) how many applications have been passed, sanctioned and the details of loans, aid, subsidy given to each industry by each bank;

(d) when and how the remaining applications will be disposed of; and

(e) what is the plan estimates and target of the same for 1982-83?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (c): The Government of India does not receive loan applications from cottage and small scale industries directly. However the District Industries Centres (DICs) in each State are providing credit assistance to small and cottage industries through various banks. The

information received in the progress Reports furnished by 17 District Industries Centres of Gujarat State, showing number of applications received, number of applications recommended to the banks and the number of applications sanctioned for loans alongwith the amount of loan for the years 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 (April to June, 1982) is given at Statement-I, II and III laid on the table of the House. [Placed in Library. See. No. LT-4493/82]

(d) With a view to facilitate timely sanction of credit facilities, Banks have been advised that their branch managers should be vested with adequate discretionary power so that 60 to 30 per cent of credit decisions could be taken at the branch level itself. Credit limits upto Rs. 25,000 and those exceeding this amount but upto Rs. 2 lakhs, should normally be disposed off within a period of 4 weeks and 8 to 9 weeks respectively from the date of receipt of the applications.

(e) The estimated targets for providing credit assistance through nationalised banks for the year 1982-83 has been fixed at Rs. 5904.30 lakhs for the entire State of Gujarat (17 DICs).

Export Trade with Hard Currency Area Countries

5234. SHRI R. L. P. VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's policy in regard to export trade with Communist countries and hard currency area countries;

(b) whether it is a fact that the hard currency area countries do not want to purchase mica from the MITCO directly; and

(c) if so, what steps Government want to take to establish better trade with the hard currency area countries?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Government attached equal importance to trade with

General Currency Area & Rupees Currency Area.

(b) Mica being a canalised item, all contracts for export of mica including export to Hard Currency Area negotiated in the name of Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd., Patna.

(c) Does not arise.

Visit of FICCI Delegation to Foreign Countries

5235. SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a FICCI delegation recently visited some foreign countries to explore the possibility of third country ventures with the collaboration of foreign countries;

(b) whether the FICCI team has submitted any detailed report in this regard; and

(c) whether the ventures are going to be in the private sector or Government will also participate in it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) (a) to (c) During the year 1982, three delegations had gone abroad under the auspices of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. These delegations had visited (1) Egypt and Nigeria (2) Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and Dubai and (3) Sweden. According to the normally accepted practice the discussions of these delegations these countries covered three major aspects: (a) promotion of bilateral trade (b) scope for establishment of joint ventures in each other's country and (c) possibility of setting up of joint ventures in third countries. FICCI delegations normally identify the areas of co-operation between India and the countries visited and it is left to the companies both in the

private and public sectors to take the necessary initiative in arranging the tie-ups.

Penalty Claims against Defaulting Exporters

5236. SHRI SAMINUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Apparels Export Promotion Council, New Delhi has penalty claims against exporters including Members of the Executive Committee for non-fulfilment of export obligations; and

(b) do Government propose an independent inquiry by and outside agency like CCI & E, to go into such defaults?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apparels Export Promotion Council has intimated that action has been initiated by the Council to invoke bank guarantees in all cases except appeal or court cases have been filed. Therefore, the need for any other inquiry does not arise.

Reduction of Prices of Controlled Cloth

5237. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of controlled cloth has been increased, if so, the percentage of increase;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to this rise, huge stocks of controlled cloth are lying unsold at the primary and link society level, particularly in the State of Orissa; and

(c) whether Government of India have been requested to reduce the present prices; if so, what action has been taken?