

Recipients of Bank Credit on preferential Rates of Interest

9087. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount advanced and the total number of peasants and agricultural labourers throughout the country to whom credit under preferential rates of interest has been advanced and their ratio to the amount and number of recipients credit on normal rates of interest; and

(b) in how many and which Districts of the country the scheme of preferential rate of interest has been introduced?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN) : (a) The scheme of Concessional Rates of Interest was started on a pilot basis in August, 1972. Upto 31st December, 1972, banks had provided funds to 26,818 borrowers involving a total amount of Rs. 89.9 lakhs. The statistics maintained for lending under the Scheme do not give information separately in regard to different categories such as agricultural labourers, artisans, etc.

(b) When the scheme was introduced in August, 1972, it was to operate in 163 districts. Later, as announced at the time of the presentation of the current year's Budget, the number of districts where the scheme is to operate was increased to 265. The names of these districts are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. 1 T.—4958' 73]

Crisis in C.C.I. due to losses in the purchase of Cotton

9088 SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Cotton Corporation of India is in the grip of a crisis on account of anticipated heavy losses on its purchases of indigenous cotton, and

(b) if so, the remedies proposed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Export of Iron Ore from Maharashtra and Goa

9089. SHRI SHANKERRAO SAVANT . SHRI S. L. PEJE :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a considerable quantity of iron ore is exported from Maharashtra and Goa; and

(b) if so, how much per year?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D. P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b). Annual exports from Maharashtra and Goa, on an average, were of the order of 6.6 lakh tonnes and 106.37 lakh tonnes respectively during the last three years.

Smuggling on Indo-Pak Borders

9090. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that smuggling on large scale on the Indo-Pak borders has been going on for quite some time past, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH) : (a) Although there is some increase in the smuggling of trade goods after the disengagement of army on Indo-Pak-border, there is nothing to indicate that smuggling on large scale is going on that border.

(b) Customs staff have been alerted and periodical meetings are held at appropriate levels between the officers of the Customs, Border Security Force, and State Police authorities to maintain liaison and to coordinate anti-smuggling activities. Sometimes joint checks are arranged. Surprise checks are also conducted at Railway Stations, Bus Stands and Post Offices.

Increase in Trade Between India and America

9091. SHRI B. S. BHURA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the American Ambassador has indicated that during the current year India's trade with America would increase, and