

Such approvals are inclusive of projects involving FDI. Therefore, the employment projections made in LOIs or the IEMs are indicative of the employment likely to be generated as a result of Government's New Industrial Policy, 1991, including the Policy on foreign investment. During the entire post policy period (i.e. August, 1991 to December, 1998), 41220 IEMs/LOIs/EOWs were filled envisaging investment of Rs.815057 crore, employment opportunities for over 72.89 lakh persons.

Tea Gardens

3719. SHRI ANAND PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some of the tea estates managed by the Tea Trading Corporation of India in West Bengal have fallen sick;

(b) if so, the name of those tea estates along with the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal for revamping these estates and ensure their smooth functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMA-KRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) to (d) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd.(TTCI), a wholly owned subsidiary of State Trading Corporation is a loss making company. The Company owns four tea gardens located in West Bengal and one tea garden in Assam. TTCI is facing an acute financial crunch with an estimated liability around Rs. 36 crores as on 31.1.97. The Corporation is presently engaged with the following three options :

- (i) Outright sale of the shares of the Corporation;
- (ii) Bifurcation of the existing company in case (i) is not found possible; and
- (iii) STC to initiate liquidation proceedings in case option (i) and (ii) above are not found practicable.

[Translation]

Loan to Encourage Small and Cottage Industries

3720. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the subsidy given to the women belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for small and cottage industries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) It has been the endeavour of the Government to simplify the conditions of providing loan for encouraging small and cottage industries. In pursuance of the Seven Point Action Plan initiated in 1995-96 for improving flow of credit to small scale sector, measures have been taken for simplification of procedural formalities by the banks. The loan application form for loans upto Rs.2 lakhs has been simplified. The High Level Committee on credit to SSI (Kapur Committee) appointed by the Reserve Bank of India has also recommended various measures in its report submitted in June 1998 for improving credit delivery system and simplification of procedures for providing bank finance to the small sector. Some of the important recommendations accepted and under implementation by banks are :

- (i) Delegation of more powers to branch managers to grant ad-hoc limits.
- (ii) Freedom to banks to decide their own norms for assessment of credit requirement.
- (iii) Enhancement in the limit for composite loans from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs.5 lakhs.

(c) and (d) There is reservation of 22.5% for SC/ST, 27% for OBC under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) scheme and preference is also given to women in the sanction of the loan for starting self-employment ventures. Subsidy is paid at 15% of the project cost or Rs. 7,500 whichever is less. Reserve Bank of India does not maintain data on subsidy amount paid to women belonging to SC/ST.

Khadi and Village Industries Commission provides 30 per cent margin money under Margin Money Scheme to women entrepreneurs including SC/ST for setting up village industries.

[English]

Losses in Showrooms of NTC

3721. SHRI RAGHVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether many showrooms run by National Textile Corporation are suffering losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to close down those showrooms which are suffering losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA) : (a) and (b) NTC Group is having 332 showrooms out