

floating charge over its other assets, subject to a charge in favour of banks on specified movables for working capital borrowings.

WTO Agreements

2574. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a meeting of Indo-European Union joint commission was held at Brusells recently;
- (b) if so, gist of the topics discussed at the meeting;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the E U has threatened to take action against India due to its non fulfilment of its obligations under W.T.O agreement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) The 10th meeting of the Indo-EC Joint Commission was held in Brussels on 14-15, January 1999. The issues discussed during the meeting include Indo-EU trade relations, market access issues and other broad policy issuses related to promotion of trade under the multilateral framework. A joint strategy for setting up of sectoral Working Groups has also been evolved to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

(c) to (e) The European Union has filed disputes against India in the WTO alleging violation of India's obligations under the WTO in respect of (i) India's Auto Policy; (ii) Quantitative restrictions on imports maintained by India under Articles XX and XXI of GATT; and (iii) Imposition of various customs duties by M/o Finance under the Customs Tariff Act. Consultations are underway with the European Union on these issues with the objective of convincing them that India has been fulfilling its obligations under the WTO.

Loans to Educated Unemployed Youths

2575. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA :
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
 SHRI RAM SHETH THAKUR :
 SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
 SHRI MOTI LAL VORA :
 SHRI AJIT JOGI :

SHRI T.R. BAALU :
 SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
 SHRI GEORGE EDEN :
 SHRI BHARTRAHARI MAHTAB :
 SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :
 SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of educated unemployed youths who applied for loans from the nationalised banks under PMRY to start their own industry/business during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the State-wise amount of loans allocated and disbursed by each bank and the number of youths of whom the loans were provided;
- (c) the State-wise number of applications pending and the reasons for delay; and
- (d) the time by which such pending applications are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) As per information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of applications received, sanctioned and disbursed under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) in respect of the educated unemployed youths by the Public Sector Banks (including Nationalised Banks) during the last three years is given in the Statements I, II and III. The sanction and disbursement of loan amounts under the scheme is a continuous Process. Sponsoring agencies forward applications for 150 percent of targets to banks by 31st December of that year and therefore some applications remain pending with banks for Scrutiny at the end of the year even after achievement of the target. A statement showing the number of applications pending as on 31.3.98 state-wise, is given in Statement-IV. Banks have been further advised to take up such pending applications for scrutiny at the commencement of the next programme year. Applications, which are not found eligible as per guidelines of the scheme or are not found viable are rejected by the banks. As per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), applications for sanction of loans up to Rs. 25,000/- should be disposed of by the banks within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25,000/- within 8 to 9 weeks.