

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
FINANCE  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:687  
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2003  
CREDIT CARDS TO ARTISANS  
RAMSHETH THAKUR

**Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether there is any proposal to issue credit cards to Artisans on the line of Kisan Credit Card;
- (b) if so, the criteria adopted therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO V. ADSUL)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The criteria being adopted for issue of the card are as under:

? The Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) Scheme will cover the entire group of small borrowers of non-farm sectors including small artisans, handloom weavers, service sector, fishermen, self-employed persons, rickshaw owners and other micro-entrepreneurs.

? The normal limit of loan to be fixed under the scheme is Rs. 25,000/- but in deserving cases, banks may consider higher limits. The facility may also include a reasonable component for consumption needs.

? The SCC is valid for 5 years and renewable on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory operation of the account.

? The beneficiaries under the scheme will be issued with a laminated credit card and a pass book which will serve as an identity card as well as facilitate recording of transactions on an ongoing basis.

? The beneficiaries under the scheme would automatically be covered under group insurance with the premium being equally shared by the bank and the beneficiary.

(c): Reserve Bank of India vide its circular dated 26.9.2003 and NABARD vide its circular dated 22.9.2003 have already issued instructions to all Commercial Banks, regional rural banks, cooperative banks to implement Swarojgar Credit Card Scheme in the country.