

Title: Need to ensure that members of minority community do not experience difficulties in getting loans from Banks - Laid.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (GULBARGA) : The Government has taken a policy decision on providing bank finance to the members of the minority communities way back in 1996 and the National Commission for Minorities was supposed to help the banks in their lending operations and some 44 districts with a concentration of minorities were identified for the purpose.

Sir, according to the reports, initially the bank did not go for lending as per the directions of the RBI but developed cold feet when defaults started occurring. Although RBI had taken serious view about the reducing lending to minorities by banks and had sent a communication in February, 2002 also to ensure the enhancement of flow of credit to minorities as per instructions issued by the RBI from time to time.

Sir, the Government has taken the decision to make focussed lending to minorities to improve their economic lot. However, it was found that many people who were also illiterate were totally unaware about formal banking system. The minorities are facing great difficulties for supply of inputs, technology and marketing support to the economic activities undertaken by the minority communities with the bank assistance.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should urge upon all the banks to provide loans to the minorities without any further delay and take action against those banks who have failed to provide loans to the minorities.