

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) The outstanding bank credit of scheduled commercial banks to Agriculture, Small Scale Industries and Industry (Medium and Large) as on March 31, 1995, March 29, 1996 and March 28, 1997 is as given below :

Sector	(Rs. crore)		
	March 31, 1995	March 29, 1996	March 28, 1997
Agriculture	23,983	27,044	30,874
Small Scale Industries	27,638	31,884	34,113
Industry (Medium & Large)	74,672	93,053	1,00,025

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) A number of steps have been taken by Government, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to enhance the flow of credit to agriculture sector. Some of these include, inter alia, the following :

- (i) The Commercial banks have been asked to increase the credit flow to agriculture by 25%.
- (ii) With a view to strengthen the financial capability of NABARD, its capital has been raised by Rs. 1000 crore during the past two years.
- (iii) Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) have been given recapitalisation support.
- (iv) Banks have been advised to set up specialised agricultural branches in each State to exclusively deal with high-tech agricultural advances.
- (v) Banks have been advised to extend cash credit facilities for meeting composite credit requirements of farmers having a good track record.
- (vi) With a view of improving the access of small farmers to industrial credit, NABARD has advised co-operative banks to earmark funds in favour of small, marginal and economically weak farmers.

#### Canada aid for Tourism Infrastructure in U.P.

4578. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Uttar Pradesh seeking Canada aid for development of tourism infrastructure of UP; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Agreement with Foreign Countries to promote tourism

4579. SHRI D.S. AHIRE :  
SHRI VITHAL TUPE :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the number of agreements signed with foreign countries to promote tourism during the last three years along with the names of such countries;

(b) the names of tourism projects introduced in the country under these agreements;

(c) the nature and quantum of assistance received/likely to be received under the agreements from foreign countries for such projects; and

(d) the details of progress made so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG) : (a) During the last three years, India has signed Agreements with the following 10 countries for mutual promotion of tourism :

Turkey, Iran (MOU), Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Seychelles, Cyprus, Peru, South Africa, Egypt and Greece.

(b) to (d) Tourism Cooperation Agreements are generally broad-based and aimed at mutual promotion of tourism between the parties. No specific tourism projects has been introduced in the country nor any financial assistance is received/likely to be received from foreign countries under these agreements.

#### Export of Handicrafts

4580. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a attractive export of handicrafts had crossed the Rs. 10000 crores mark by the turn of the century:

(b) if so, whether the healthy growth of 18 per cent in rupee terms and 15 per cent in dollar terms was recorded:

(c) if so, whether national average has dipped below four per cent handicraft exports would touch the landmark figure by 2000-2001;

(d) the details of the steps taken to further improve the handicrafts exports; and