

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the following institutions are providing housing finance all over the country:

- (i) All Scheduled Commercial Banks.

(ii) Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO).

(iii) Housing Development Financial Corporation (HDFC).

(iv) Housing Finance Institutions promoted by commercial banks.

(b) Commercial Banks charge interest on housing loans as per the guidelines prescribed by the RBI given below:-

<i>Amount of Loan</i>	<i>Rate of Interest (Percent per annum)</i>
Upto Rs. 20,000/-	12.5
Above Rs. 20,000/- & upto Rs. 50,000/-	13.5
Above Rs. 50,000/- & upto Rs. 1.lakh	14.0
Above Rs. 1 lakh & upto Rs 3 lakhs	14.5 to16.0

Rate of interest for housing loan for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5,000/- is 4% per annum.

Banks are also allowed to charge higher rate of interest over the minimum interest rate of 16% per annum on housing loans exceeding Rs. 3 lakhs per individual.

(c) and (d). There is, at present, no proposal to make any change in the rates of interest on housing loans extended by banks.

#### **Removal of Titanium Dioxide from OGL**

5722. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from Government of Kerala for removing Titanium dioxide from the Open General Licence list of import;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on this matter; and

(c) the reasons for not removing it from OGL?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The suggestion was considered in consultation with the Technical Authorities. However, as Titanium Dioxide is required by a number of small scale units and issue of individual licences for such units would be very cumbersome, it was decided to continue its import under OGL.

#### **Tea Exports to Hard Currency Areas**

5723. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the break up of amount of tea