

(a) the number of educated unemployed youths benefited so far in Rajasthan under the Self-employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme (SEEUY) and the total amount of money given to them so far for establishing their business;

(b) whether certain youths selected under the Scheme were denied loans by the banks; and

(c) if so, the number thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c). Under the Scheme for providing Self Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), loans amounting to Rs. 130.29 crores have been sanctioned to 66941 persons in the State of Rajasthan since the commencement of the Scheme in the year 1983-84 and upto 1988-89. The report for the year 1989-90 has not yet become available.

The recommendations made by the District Industries Centres in each State for assistance under the Scheme are appraised by the banks and loans sanctioned to applicants by the banks and loans sanctioned to applicants other-wise found eligible under the Scheme provided their projects are considered technically feasible and financially viable. Complaints, if any, in this regard are looked into by the Government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the banks concerned.

Pig Iron Demand In Foundry Units

*713. SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated demand of pig iron for foundry units in the country;

(b) whether these units are facing crisis due to the shortage of pig iron; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to tide over this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The total demand for pig iron as assessed by the Development Commissioner for Iron and Steel and the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) was 17.50 lakh tonnes for 1989-90. For the year 1990-91, the demand is assessed at 18.50 lakh tonnes.

(b) No, Sir. Import of pig iron was allowed to actual users, through Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation (MMTC).

(c) In order to meet the gap between demand and supply, imports of nearly 3 lakh tonnes of pig iron were arranged through MMTC in 1989-90. From March 1990, import of foundry grade pig iron has been placed under OGL for actual users.

[English]

Incidental Credit Facilities to Small and Marginal Farmers

*714. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal that incidental credit facilities should be raised upto 50 per cent under a time bound programme in favour of small and marginal farmers as also landless workers and artisans; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b). Presumably, the Hon'ble Member desires to know whether the banks'

lending to small and marginal farmers, landless cultivators and artisans would be accelerated to achieve a prescribed target. In this connection, it may be stated that banks have been asked to raise the proportion of their credit to priority sector to 40% of their net bank credit; 18% of the total credit in respect of direct finance extended to agriculture (including allied activities) by March, 1990; and the advance to weaker section, which includes small and marginal farmers and landless cultivators and artisans, are to reach a level of 10% of total credit or 25% of the priority sector advances. Against the above targets, public sector banks as a whole have extended 44.3% of their total advances to priority sector as at the end of December, 1989. With regard to direct finance to agriculture, these banks have extended 16.6% of their total advances as at the end of December, 1989. So far as advances to weaker sections are concerned, these banks have extended 10.8% of their total advances and 24.5% of their total priority sector advances to weaker sections by the end of December, 1989.

Steel Stockyard at Mangalore

*715. SHRI H C. SRIKANTIAH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total estimated demand in and around Mangalore area for Steel at present;

(b) whether there is a proposal to establish a Steel stockyard at Mangalore; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Total

demand in and around Mangalore area has not been estimated.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) According to SAIL, the present level of supplies in and around Mangalore does not justify the opening of SAIL's Stockyard at Mangalore.

Weak Reception of Radio Station Berhampore, West Bengal

*716. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the programmes broadcast by newly established radio station at Berhampore, West Bengal are not audible as these are not picked by radio;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) Since programmes from new radio station at Berhampore (Mushidabad), West Bengal, are on Frequency Modulation (FM) band operating on 102.2 MHz (2.935 M), these cannot be received by Amplitude Modulation (AM) receivers. A good reception is expected upto 60 Kms. all around it on receivers having FM Band.

(b) This is because of difference in modulation/Transmission technique.

(c) Receivers suitable for both AM/FM reception are available in the market. Due publicity through electronic media is being made to inform the public to use receivers having FM band for tuning FM Stations.