

<i>Group</i>	<i>SC</i>	<i>ST</i>
A	9	3
B	2	1
C	3	6
D	—	—
	14	10

A Special Recruitment Drive was conducted earlier by PEC in 1989 to clear the backlog as a result of which PEC could fill up only two posts in the reserved category.

Electronic Units in African Countries.

*797. SHRI PRAKASH KOYO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some African countries such as Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana have expressed a keen desire to set up electronic units based on kit imports from India;

(b) if so, whether a delegation of Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council visited these countries and submitted their report to the Government if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they have also found good market for computer software in these countries; and

(d) if so, whether any concrete proposals are being considered in this regard; and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) to (d). The Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council sponsored a 5 Member delegation which included industry representatives from the consumer

electronics, computer hardware, software, and the electronic component sector, to visit Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana in March 1990 in order to identify the market potential for export of electronic items from India. It is gathered that in the absence of the requisite infrastructure and component base for integrated manufacture, there is a desire in these countries to establish assembly units based on kit import of Indian made computer hardware, peripherals, power supplies and software.

The market opportunities are being pursued by individual firms and it is reported that orders worth Rs. 50 lakhs for public address equipment and consumer electronic items have been booked.

[*Translation*]

Adoption of Villages by Nationalised Banks in Uttar Pradesh

*798. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria prescribed by the nationalised banks for giving loans for rural development; and

(b) the number of villages adopted so far by the nationalised banks in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Loans for any viable Schemes undertaken by any entrepreneurs for rural development are provided by the commercial banks. The margin money, the security norms and rates of interest are liberal in case of agricultural lending. It has been provided that:

- (i) No margin may be asked on agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000/- and loans to small scale

industries upto Rs 25,000/-.

- (ii) No security or guarantee is to be insisted upon in respect of agricultural loans upto Rs 10,000/- and in case of loans to small scale industries upto Rs 25,000/ ,
- (iii) Concessional rates of interest are applicable for short term agricultural loans to farmers for amounts upto Rs 25,000/
- (iv) All Priority Sector loan applications upto a credit limit of Rs 25,000/ should be disposed of within a fortnight and these over Rs 25 000/ within 8 to 9 weeks
- (v) Application forms for agricultural loans are to be made available in regional languages to facilitate submission of the applications

(b) All the villages in Uttar Pradesh have been allocated to 6348 branches of banks under the Service Area Approach

[English]

Holding Company for STC and MMTC.

*799 SHRI VENKATA KRISHNA REDDY KASU Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) the details of the proposed holding company for the STC and MMTC particularly with reference to the cost effectiveness in the operations and improved export performance.

(b) whether Government have conducted any review about the post performance of these two corporations which might have prompted to set up a holding company, and

(c) if so, the details of its findings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU) (a) to (c) STC and MMTC are two major canalising agencies for import of earmarked products which form essential inputs for country's economy. With the liberalised economic policies leading to a balance of payment situation there is a dire need to increase exports. In actual operation, however, certain amount of over-lapping has taken place between STC and MMTC as both the Corporations are leading trading houses using their strength as a buyer of bulk raw materials to promote country trade exports in all items. Due to lack of coordination, direction and limited size of operations, these trading organisations have not been able to obtain the best of terms while importing goods. The committee set up in 1968-69 to review the State Trading Corporation under the Chairmanship of Dr P C Alexander, recommended the setting-up of a HOLDING COMPANY with subsidiaries for engineering consumer and general products, agricultural products, chemicals and fertilizers, MMTC and HHEC. Arjun Sen Gupta Report (1985) which reviewed the policy for public enterprises recommended Holding Company structure. The view of S Ramanathan Committee Report regarding Arjun Sen Gupta Committee Report also supported the HOLDING COMPANY structure. Subsequently, an independent study by Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, was conducted in 1987. In its report, ASCI supported the need of a Holding Company on the major considerations of over-lapping and conflicts between the PSUs, especially in non-canalised export products, importance of counter-trade as a strategy for additionality in exports, etc.

With a view to achieving better coordination and use the combined strength of MMTC and STC, to promote exports by avoiding competition, over-lapping, or un-