

loan to Punjab Government for this feeder airline service and the Punjab Government is planning to have a feeder service from Amritsar to Chandigarh or Ludhiana to Chandigarh. In that connection, I am asking whether your negative answer is with regard to the purchase of 20-seater aircraft or that the Punjab Government is not at all going to take advantage of that loan of the consortium and are not starting the feeder service.

SHRI A. P. SHARMA: I have already said that the Punjab Government has not evinced any interest. If the hon. Member is interested to know about the State Governments who have evinced interest in the feeder airline service, I can give the name. The State Government which have evinced interest in third level air service are Arunachal, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

### Joint Ventures in Iran

\*697. SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that contracts for supply of several items to Iran had recently been finalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to set up joint ventures in Iran with the help of Indian manufacturers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government is aware that for the supply to Iran of certain products from India, some contracts have recently been negotiated. Since, however, Government does not monitor day-to-day transactions, details are not available.

(c) and (d) No proposal for setting up of a joint venture in Iran involving participation of any Indian entrepreneur is presently under consideration of Government.

SHRI BHIKHU RAM JAIN: Iran is the 4th big oil producing country in the world and they are having a vacuum as regards their requirements of other items. Why are our Government not negotiating with them for the supply of these items from India because it would eventually mean a benefit to the country? What are the reasons because of which we are not negotiating for the supply of these items from India to Iran?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have not said that we are not negotiating: We are negotiating and a large number of items are going from India to Iran. In fact, the hon. Member wanted to know the progress. As I said, we are not monitoring day-to-day transactions. But in general terms, I can give the information with regard to a large number of contracts which have been entered, for example with M/s. Mahindra and Mahindra for supplying 4000 petrol jeep vehicles valued at Rs. 13 crores, with Messrs. Atlas Cycles Ltd., Sonapat for supply 46500 cycles valued at Rs. 1.42 crores, with M/s. Steelcraft, Panipat for supply of conduit pipes valued at Rs. 1.50 crores etc. Then, STC are also supplying some items. As regard to the question of participation with Iran in joint ventures, what I have said is that at the moment, no specific proposal is under the consideration of the Government and I had to frame the answer in reference to the text of the question.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: The hon. Minister has said that no proposal for setting up of a joint venture in Iran involving participation of any Indian entrepreneur is presently under consideration of Government. In this connection, I would like to draw his attention to the news item in the Hindustan Times today, according to which, the Chairman, engineer-



ing Export Promotion Council, Shri Puroj, who has just returned from Iran, said:

"Delegation returned fully satisfied with the Iranian response. Iranian parties were eager to start joint ventures in Iran ...

to manufacture automobile parts, refrigeration equipment, machine tools etc. During the visit of the delegation, a joint venture proposal to produce shock absorbers, which was hanging fire for the last seven years, was revived and signed." In view of the statement made by the Chairman, Engineering Export Promotion Council, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of this; if not, why it has not been brought to his notice? Whether it is a fact or not.

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** In fact, we are waiting for the feed back information from the Engineering Export Promotion Council and when they will provide us with the information and the result of their talk, we will take a decision on the basis of their recommendations.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE:** I would like to know from the hon. Minister is it a fact that Iran desires that we should be able to export to them alumina; and if we are willing to export alumina; in that case, they are prepared to give us the necessary assistance to set up project that will be able to produce alumina and send them in adequate quantity; and if that be the proposal, is the Government willing to consider that proposal?

**SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:** When Iran's Commerce Minister was here, we had a detailed discussion with him. Our officers and their officers also had a detailed discussion and we explored the possibility of working together in various areas. But in regard to this particular question, there was no specific proposal, only general mention was made.

**Loans to educated unemployed in M.P.**

**\*698. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the branches of nationalised banks in Madhya Pradesh have undertaken on a priority basis giving of loans to educated unemployed in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the figures of educated unemployed who have been provided loans and the total quantum of loan amount given to them during the years 1977-78, 1978-79 and 1979-80; and

(c) what further steps Government have planned to help the educated unemployed in backward districts of Madhya Pradesh?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

The data is presently collected on the basis of various public sector banks outstanding advances to priority sector which includes advances to educated unemployed. No separate data is kept in regard to loans sanctioned to educated unemployed. Recently the public sector banks have been advised that by 1985 their priority sector advances should reach 40 per cent of their aggregate advances. It is hoped that a good part of this increase would go to the share of the educated unemployed in Madhya Pradesh and other States.

The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions for preferential treatment, quick disposal of loans, waiver of margin requirements etc. in dealing with proposals received from educated unemployed under various special employment schemes of Central/State Governments. The district credit plans prepared for these backward districts would on implementation help create more avenues