

with EEC during 1983 originated from three countries. They are U.K., Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and Luxemburg. It is also on account of increased import of rough diamonds and precious stones; deficit with Federal Republic of Germany was also there due to the import of engineering goods.

These are the main points.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Disbursement of Loans by Nationalised Banks to North-Eastern States

*298. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage of loans sanctioned and disbursed by Nationalised Banks to the North-Eastern States was not satisfactory and adequate ;

(b) what is its relation to all India figures ; and

(c) the steps proposed to ensure adequate finance for development and motivation of industries in the region ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The credit-deposit ratio of all scheduled commercial banks in the North-Eastern Region was 42.0 per cent as at the end of June 1983 compared to the all-India level of 68.1 per cent.

2. In order to step up the level of economic activity and to increase flow of credit in the North-Eastern Region, efforts have been directed towards strengthening the institutional infrastructure through opening of branches of commercial banks and estab-

lishment of regional rural banks, improving training facilities for bank staff as also for Government agencies connected with developmental programmes.

3. With a view to encourage location of industrial units in the North-Eastern Region all districts of the region have been categorised as Category 'A' areas and attractive incentives are available to entrepreneurs to set up industrial units in these areas. I.D.B.I. has also announced a package of incentives and concessions for units in the North-Eastern Region.

Steps to make Sugar an Export-Oriented Item

*300. SHRI B.S. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has decided to export 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar in 1984 even if it meant some imports ;

(b) if so, whether this decision was taken as many countries had expressed concern that India may not have adequate surplus for fulfilling the expected ISO quota of 6.5 lakh tonnes for this year ;

(c) whether out of contracted quantity of three lakh tonnes, 1.7 lakh tonnes has already been shipped by STC ;

(d) whether his Ministry has set up a working group to examine various issues involved in making sugar an export-oriented item ; and

(e) if so, the time by which the working group is likely to submit its recommendations to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) and (b). On the basis of assessment of domestic availability and exportable surplus, a decision was taken to export 6.5 lakh tonnes of sugar during 1984, which is the quota allocated to India for this year by the International Sugar Organisation.