

Thus the rate of interest that the small and marginal farmers having credit limits upto Rs. 25,000/- will have to pay is 12 per cent per annum and it is concessional as compared with those borrowing higher amounts.

(c) State-wise data in respect of loans provided by commercial banks for fisheries during the year ended June 1992 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Tourism

1590. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned from tourism during 1993; and

(b) the steps taken to earn more foreign exchange from tourism in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The foreign exchange earning from tourism include improvement of infrastructural facilities in the country and strengthening of publicity and marketing efforts in the overseas markets to attract more tourists.

Amendment of Tobacco Board Act, 1975

1591. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring the country tobacco under the Tobacco Board;

(b) if so, the likely date by which suitable amendments are to be brought to the Tobacco Board Act, 1975; and

(c) the steps taken to protect the interest of tobacco growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED). (a) and (b) A proposal to bring non-virginia tobacco under the purview of the Tobacco Board is under consideration.

(c) Steps taken to protect the interest of tobacco growers include

- Planning the FCV tobacco crop size so as to match demand and supply with a view to ensure remunerative prices to the growers,
- Organising auction system for marketing of FCV tobacco which ensures correct classification, prompt weighment, competitive bidding and prompt payment to the farmers;
- Fixing of Minimum support Price for FCV tobacco.
- Negotiating with tobacco trade for fixation of Minimum Guaranteed price for FCV tobacco.
- Providing extension services for improving the quality of tobacco.
- Undertaking export promotion for improving marketability of tobacco grown.