

manufacture and marketing of quality leather products and to give technical advise in the field of marketing, design, product management, financial tie-ups etc. in respect of leather garments, travel and other light goods etc.

(xiii) *Delegation from Pakistan*

A delegation visited India from Pakistan in March, 1980. No agreement was signed.

(xiv) *Delegation from Iran*

A delegation from Iran visited India in June 1980. In the minutes signed with Iran, the two sides agreed that cooperation should be extended between the two countries in the sectors of food, agriculture, Drugs and pharmaceuticals, supply of engineering goods and provision of consultancy services.

(c) Official Trade Delegations from India visited U.S.S.R. France, Sri Lanka and Bhutan during the current year. The results of their visit are:—

U.S.S.R.

Discussed matters relating to supply of crude oil and H.S.D. as also to renewal of Trade and Payments Agreement and Trade Plan for 1981—85.

FRANCE

Discussed Indo-French Trade and Economic matters. A cooperation agreement in oil and gas sector between the two Governments was signed. The progress in various fields of economic and technical cooperation between the two countries was reviewed.

SRI LANKA AND BHUTAN

Discussed bilateral issues.

Changes for Development of Tourism Industry

1569. SHRI D. P. JADEJA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to bring some changes to develop tourism industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) and (b). The Tourism Plan is being reviewed for gearing up facilities to meet the requirements of 3.5 million tourists by 1990. One of the measures suggested to achieve this objective is to intensively develop and promote centres falling on selected travel circuits. Discussions are being held with the State Tourist officials or identifying the travel circuits and determining the tourist infrastructural requirements at centres falling on these travel circuits. The details will thus emerge only after this exercise has been completed.

Sanction of Loans to Persons belonging to Minorities by Nationalised Banks

1570. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any priority is given to the persons belonging to the Minorities, S.T./S.C. and other weaker sections of society for the sanction of loans by the Nationalised banks for self-employment purposes or for setting up small scale industries;

(b) if so, the nature of the priority given alongwith the date when the priority was first given in practice by each one of the Nationalised banks;

(c) the percentage of the loans extended to these categories to the total loans sanctioned; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) to (d). At the time of nationalisation of 14 commercial banks in July 1969, the Prime Minister had indicated that the public sector banks would be giving priority to the credit needs of farmers, artisans and craftsmen and other small entrepreneurs for self-employment ventures. Accordingly the public sector banks have been treating sectors such as agriculture, road and water transport, small scale industries, retail trade, small business, education & professional & self-employment ventures in which most of the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society, irrespective of whether they belong to majority or minority communities, are engaged, as priority sectors.

In accordance with the priority accorded to the lendings to these sectors, all the public sector banks have ensured larger flow of credit to the priority sectors with their outstanding advances increasing from Rs. 446 crores accounting for 14.6 per cent of their credit in July 1969 to about Rs. 6007 crores accounting for 34.1 per cent in December 1979 (provisional estimates). The public sector banks have now been advised to raise the level of credit to these sectors to 40 per cent of their aggregate credit by 1985.

Within the overall priority sectors, banks have been asked to pay special attention to the needs of the smaller borrowers. In the Agricultural sector the banks have been advised to ensure that atleast 50 per cent of their direct advances go to the small and marginal farmers by 1983.

The banks have also been advised that the district/block credit plans should be weighted in favour of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and special bankable schemes suited to members of these communities should be drawn up to ensure their partici-

pation in such schemes and larger flow of credit to them for self-employment.

Differential Rate of Interest Scheme which is in operation since 1972 is also devised wholly for the benefit of the weakest amongst the weaker sections of the society. Under the Scheme, the banks have to ensure that at least 40 per cent of the credit goes to the members of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. As at the end of September 1979, a sum of Rs. 124.43 crores covering more than 19 lakhs borrowal accounts was outstanding under the Scheme. Of this a sum of Rs. 52.54 crores covering nearly 8 lakh borrowed accounts was outstanding amongst the members of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. This works out to 42.2 per cent of the aggregate advances under the Scheme as against the stipulated target of 40 per cent.

Prosecutions for Economic Offences

1571. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some persons or institutions have been prosecuted for 'economic' offences, during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names thereof along with the precise offence in each case, State-wise;

(c) the present position of the cases filed against them;

(d) whether Government propose to ensure that the persons/institutions responsible for economic offences are properly punished; and

(e) if so, the nature of the machinery set up for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT) (a): Yes Sir.

(b) and (c). The number of prosecution cases pending at various stages in respect of offences under the Customs Act as on 30-4-80 is 2104.