

[*Translation*]

Loans for Productive Self-Employment Schemes

*432. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted the policy of advancing loans on priority basis for productive self-employment schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have received representations/proposals for advancing such loans in the backward districts in North Bihar; if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE):

(a) to (c) Under the Scheme for providing Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY), the educated unemployed youth whose family income does not exceed Rs. 10,000 per annum are eligible for assistance under the scheme. Loans for business ventures are advanced by banks to the selected beneficiaries for starting their own ventures at concessional terms. A subsidy to the extent of 25% of the project cost is available from the Government of India. 30% of the target under the scheme has been reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes beneficiaries.

Self Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) covers all cities/towns with a population exceeding 10,000 as per 1981 census and areas which are not covered under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP). Persons whose total family income does not exceed Rs. 600 per month are eligible for assistance to undertake any economically viable activity. A capital subsidy at the rate of 25% of the amount of assistance is provided by the Central Government.

Ministry of Industry which is administering the SEEUY Scheme and the Reserve Bank of India have reported that they are not aware of any representations/proposals about the advancing of loans for such purposes in the backward districts of North Bihar. The progress of the implementation of the schemes is also reviewed at the District Level Consultative Committees and State Level Bankers' Committees.

[*English*]

Trade with Singapore

*433 SHRI GOPINATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to improve trade relations with Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the area identified for the expansion of trade relations between the two countries; and

(c) the details of schemes drawn up by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have been taking various steps to improve trade relations with Singapore. These include exchange of delegations both at official and trade level, participation in International Trade Fairs/Exhibitions etc.

Engineering equipment for agriculture and processing plants, piston engines, hand tools and machine tools, steel castings, parts for industrial machinery, electronic components and software, rubber products, leather and leather products, coffee, spices, perfumes and toiletries, vegetables and fruits have good potential for trade with Singapore.

(c) Apart from the general trade promotional activities, an idea to