

procedures, greater flexibility and discretion to banks in the matter of collateral/margin security, dispensing with "No Dues Certificate" cash disbursement of loans, introduction of new loan products with savings component etc. have been implemented;

- Extension of cash credit facility for meeting composite credit needs of farmers;
- Introduction of Kisan Credit Cards aimed at providing timely and adequate credit support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs;
- Liberalization of guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security, norms for minimum recovery and minimum involvement etc.
- Banks have been advised by the RBI to open specialized agricultural branches to take care of financing of high tech agricultural projects.

Egg Processing Industry

4901. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the domestic egg processing industry are facing crisis;
- (b) if so, the factual position in this regard;
- (c) whether the two egg powder plants have already been referred to BIFR;
- (d) whether Government propose to give subsidy for every Kg. of egg powder exported;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) steps proposed for revival of egg processing industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SYED SHAHANAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (f) An egg powder plants of M/s. Western Foods Ltd., 341-342, Sector-35B, Chandigarh has been registered with the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in August, 1999. The Government has initiated Plan Schemes for the Development/Improvement of the Poultry and Egg Processing industries for both domestic and export

market for assured quality and health standards and also effecting necessary technological improvement of processing units. Under the Scheme, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to both egg and poultry processing industries. The Government is also monitoring the quality aspect of egg products meant for export under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 through Export Inspection council of india, for developing the confidence of the foreign buyers in respect of quality of Indian egg products.

Number of Persons Sent for Training Abroad

4902. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government nominate Officers for training to Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial and technical skills in various fields at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, furnish the number of persons abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad from the Ministry of Agriculture during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category among such persons and their percentage to total such persons; and

(d) if the above demand not concede satisfactorily the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons sent for training courses abroad during the last five years from the Ministry of Agriculture, year-wise is as under:—

Year	No. of persons sent abroad for training courses
1995-96	27
1996-97	39
1997-98	25
1998-99	58
1999-2000	50
	199

(c) The number of persons belonging to SC/ST category is 18. Their percentage to total number of such persons is 9%.