

**Bank loans to Journalists**

141. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:

SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Journalists are treated, in "professionals" category by Reserve Bank of India for availing of loans from banks to buy vehicles etc;

(b) what are the names of categories treated as professionals by the Reserve Bank of India for disbursement of loans from nationalised banks;

(c) whether he has received any representation from the Press Association, New Delhi, in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to provide loan facilities to accredited journalists from nationalised banks to buy vehicles for professional work- and

(e) if so, by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER, OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FAL-LEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that free lance journalists can be classified under "Professionals" category for the purpose of bank loans provided they satisfy the terms and conditions stipulated for availing of credit assistance from banks under priority sector.

(b) Professionals eligible to advances under priority sector include Medical Practitioners, Dentists, Chartered Accountants, Cost Accountants, Lawyers, Engineers, Architects, Management Consultants or persons holding either a degree or

diploma in any other art or craft from any institution recognised by Government.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not received any representation from the Press Association, New Delhi.

(d) Loans to Professionals are extended for the purpose of purchasing equipment, repair or renovation of existing equipment or for purchase of tools. The banks can provide loans to an accredited journalist for the purchase of a vehicle, if it is considered essential for the professional work.

(e) Does not arise.

**International Tea Promotion Association**

142. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to join International Tea Promotion Association; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons; therefore and what benefits are expected to accrue to our tea industry as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and (b) During the recent visit of an Indian Tea Delegation to Sri Lanka, both the sides had discussions on mutual interest. On International tea scene including the question of desirability of an International Commodity Agreement on Tea. During discussions both sides were of the view that a fresh approach be made among tea producing countries to work out the modalities of a Commodity Agreement, it was felt that the reconstitution of the International Tea Promotion Association in order to include all major tea producing countries and