

Bank loans to Journalists

141. SHRI PARVATHANENI UP-
ENDRA:

SHRI NARESH C. PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state:

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

(b) what are the names of categor-
ies treated as professionals by the
Reserve Bank of India for disburse-
ment of loans from nationalised
banks;

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

(d) whether Government propose
to provide loan facilities to accredi-
ted journalists from nationalised
banks to buy vehicles for profes-
sional work; and

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

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

(b) Professionals eligible to ad-
vances under priority sector inclu-
de Medical Practitioners, Dentists,
Chartered Accountants, Cost Ac-
countants, Lawyers, Engineers, Ar-
chitects, 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 re-
ported that it has not received any
representation from the Press As-
sociation, New Delhi.

(d) Loans to Professionals are ex-
tended 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 profes-
sional work.

(e) Does not arise.

**International Tea Promotion Asso-
ciation**

142. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY
JOSHI: Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state:

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

(b) if so, what are the reasons
therefor and what benefits are ex-
pected 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 discus-
sions on mutual interest on Interna-
tional tea scene including the ques-
tion of desirability of an Interna-
tional Commodity Agreement on
Tea. During discussions both sides
were of the view that a fresh ap-
proach be made among tea produc-
ing countries to work out the moda-
lities 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