

Funds for subsidy payable to the individual beneficiaries were routed through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) which in turn passed them to the implementing banks for crediting the admissible subsidy to the loan accounts of beneficiaries.

PMRY was a credit linked subsidy scheme and its objective was to assist the educated unemployed youth of economically weaker sections in setting up of self employment ventures in industry, service and business sectors. Initially, the PMRY was implemented only in urban areas of the country. With effect from 1994-1995, it was implemented in both urban and rural areas. The number of beneficiaries in Uttarakhand to whom loans were disbursed during 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 as reported by Reserve Bank of India are as under :

Year	No.of beneficiares (persons to whom loan disbursed by banks)
2006-2007	7573
2007-2008	7737

Protection and promotion of MSMEs

2566. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has decided, as a matter of policy, to promote micro, small and medium enterprises by investing substantial amounts of money;
- (b) whether Government believes in "small is beauty" principle in order to protect the small investors by giving them loans with meager interests; and
- (c) if so, the measures taken so far to protect and promote small-scale industries and enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) To facilitate the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and enhance their competitiveness, the Government has announced a 'Policy Package for Stepping up Credit to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)' on 10th August 2005 which envisages public sector banks to fix their own targets for funding of MSMEs in order to achieve a minimum 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to the MSME sector. The Government has also announced in February 2007 a 'Package for Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises' with an objective to provide support in areas of credit, technology upgradation, marketing, infrastructure etc. Further, keeping in view the impact of global economic slowdown on MSMEs, the Government, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Public Sector Banks have taken several measures for protecting and providing a stimulus to the MSMEs which, *inter alia*, include: (i) extending the loan limit under Credit Guarantee Scheme from Rs.50 lakh to

Rs.1 crore with a guarantee cover of 50%; (ii) increasing the guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme from 80 per cent to 85 per cent of credit facility up to Rs.5 lakh; (iii) interest subvention of 2 per cent in pre and post-shipment export credit to small and medium enterprises (SME) sector; (iv) refinance limit of Rs.7,000 crore to Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for incremental on-lending to the micro and small enterprises (MSE) sector; (v) grant of need-based *ad hoc* working capital demand loans up to 20 per cent of the existing fund-based limits; and (vi) reduction in interest rates for borrowing by micro enterprises by 1 per cent and in respect of SMEs by 0.5 per cent. These have resulted in increasing the outstanding credit to micro and small enterprises sector from public sector banks from Rs. 1,51,137 crore as at the end of March, 2008 to Rs.1,91,307 crore as at the end of March 2009.

New rail line from Sevak to Sikkim

†2567. SHRI SAMAN PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Railways has started survey and work for the construction of new rail lines from Sevak to Sikkim;
- (b) whether Government is planning to upgrade Sevak railway station; and
- (c) whether Government is contemplating to open railway counter at Sevak station keeping in view the convenience of passengers of Duwars, Kalimpong, Sikkim regions etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The construction of new line from Sivok to Rangpo (Sikkim) has been taken up. The length of the line is 52.7 Km and cost as per the initial survey is Rs. 1339.48 crore. The Final Location Survey is in progress. The work has been entrusted to M/s IRCON, a PSU under Ministry of Railways, for execution.

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Two railway counters have been provided at the station which is considered adequate.

Better facilities to foreign passengers

2568. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Passenger Amenities Committee has recommended to allow travellers a better view of outside special coaches exclusive for foreigners and better communication system to reach train drivers in case of emergency so that ancient alarm chain system can be done away with;
- (b) if so, whether they have also recommended that railways should consider bigger size window with clear glasses; and
- (c) if so, the details of any other suggestions made and by when Government is likely to implement these suggestions and provide special rail coaches for foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) No formal recommendation has been received.

- (c) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.