

(c) if not, whether Government would accede to the request of people of the Himachal Pradesh for receiving at least some seats for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) 4035/4036 Dhauladhar Express was introduced on 25.12.2002 as a tri-weekly train between Delhi and Pathankot.

(b) and (c) All the reserved accommodation available in train No. 4035/4036 Dhauladhar Express is freely available for booking through computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS), which can be booked by the people of Himachal Pradesh, also on first come first served basis.

Palace on Wheels

1318. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Railways to start second version of the 'Palace on Wheels' in collaboration with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the new venture is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is proposal to start a second Palace on Wheels in collaboration with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC). The train is to run on the same sector as in the existing Palace on Wheels. The State Government of Rajasthan has agreed to share the capital cost of the train, with the Railways. No timeframe has been set for the launching of the train.

Sick SSIs in Orissa

1319. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

MISS PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick Small Scale Industries in Orissa as on March, 2006;

(b) the number of Small Scale Industries revived under the different schemes of Government till 2005-06;

(c) the amount of NPA money in Small Scale Industry sector in Orissa; and

(d) what efforts Government are making for recovery of NPA amount from various institutions of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) As per the data furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the number of sick small scale industrial (SSI) units, number of SSIs revived and the amount of non-performing assets (NPAs) in Orissa as at the end of March 2006 are as under:

Lending Institutions	Number of sick SSIs	Number of sick SSIs revived	Amount of NPAs (Rs. lakh)
Scheduled Commercial Banks	5123	152	6794.72
Orissa State Financial Corporation	1688	690	417.58
TOTAL	6811	842	7212.30

(d) The following measures have been taken for revival of sick SSIs/ recovery of NPAs from sick SSIs:

(i) In January 2002, the RBI circulated detailed guidelines on rehabilitation of sick SSI units to all scheduled commercial banks for implementation. These guidelines include, *inter alia*, change in the definition of sick SSI units, norms for deciding their viability, concessional finance, etc., with a view to helping the banks in detecting sickness at an early stage and taking corrective action revival of the potentially viable sick SSI units;

(ii) In September 2005, the RBI has issued fresh guidelines to the banks on debt restructuring mechanism for small and medium enterprises (SMEs-including SSIs) to ensure debt restructuring of all eligible SMEs. These guidelines include, *inter alia*, viability criteria, prudential norms for restructured accounts, provision of additional finance, time frame for working out the restructuring package and its implementation, etc.;

- (iii) In September 2005, the RBI issued guidelines to all public sector banks on a One-Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for recovery of non-performing assets (NPAs) of the SMEs with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crore and below. The guidelines provide a simplified, non-discretionary and non-discriminatory mechanism for settlement of chronic NPAs in the SME sector.

Special economic package for SSIs

1320. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special economic package for the small scale industries have proposed to be announced by Government during the current financial year to strengthen small scale industries in the different States of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to strengthen the SSIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Government has announced a package for steeping up credit to small and medium enterprises with the main objective of doubling the flow of credit to them within a period of five years beginning 2005-06. A package for the promotion of micro and small enterprises is also under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Government has been implementing several schemes to strengthen the small scale industries (SSIs) including, *inter alia*, Central excise exemption up to Rs. 1 crore to the units with annual turnover of up to Rs. 4 crore under the General SSI Excise Exemption Scheme, exemption from collateral security requirements for loans up to Rs. 5 lakh (up to Rs. 25 lakh for units with good track record and financial position), capital subsidy of 15 per cent with a loan ceiling of Rs. 1 crore under Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology Upgradation of SSIs, reimbursement of charges for acquiring ISO-9000/14000 certification to the extent of 75 per cent of the cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 75,000/-, reimbursement of fee to the extent of 75 per cent subject