

Economic cooperation agreement between India and the E. E. C.

458. SHRI K. L. N. PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether new economic cooperation agreement between India and the European Economic Community has been reached; and

(b) if so, what are the main features of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(to) Does not arise.

Annual rate of growth for educated unemployed

459. SHRIMATI AMARJIT KAUR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) what is the annual rate of growth of educated unemployed according to the live registers at the Employment Exchanges;

(b) whether Government has any scheme like the one envisaged by the Janata Government to provide employment to lakhs of people within a time bound programme; and

(c) whether Government propose to give unemployment allowance to the educated unemployed, skilled and unskilled labour, maintained on the live registers of employment exchanges in India?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION AND LABOUR (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK): (a) The annual rate of growth of educated (matric and above) job-seekers registered with the Employment Exchanges (all of whom are not necessarily unemployed) was 12.3 per cent during 1978 and 7.6 per cent during the period January—June, 1979.

(b) Government are aware of the problem of unemployment in the country. Government propose to give the matter a detailed consideration in the background of formulating a new Plan so as to maximise the creation of employment opportunities.

(c) No, Sir. There is no such proposal presently under consideration of the Government.

Central assistance to Sikkim for development of Tourism

460. SHRI SHYAMLAL YADAV: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance provided to the Government of Sikkim during the last three years for the development of Tourism in the State and details of the centrally financed schemes; and

(b) the extent of growth in tourist traffic registered during the last three years in Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KARTIK ORAON): (a) There are no centrally sponsored schemes in the tourism sector. Schemes are taken up either in the Central Sector or State Sector. Since Sikkim offers excellent trekking opportunities, the Department of Tourism has released an amount of Rs. 3.49 lakhs to the State Government for the purchase of equipment for organising trekking programmes for the youth. It is also proposed to construct a youth hostel in Gangtok, which is the starting point for treks during the current Plan period. The State Government has been approached for making land available.

(b) Since tourist statistics are computed on an all-India basis and not on State-wise basis, information in respect of growth of tourist traffic to Sikkim in the last 3 years is not available.