

- (viii) Handicrafts and carpets,
- (ix) Natural silk fabrics and garments,
- (x) Synthetic fabrics and garments,
- (xi) De-oiled rice bran, de-oiled mango kernel extractions and decorticated cotton seed extractions | expeller cakes,
- (xii) Coir products,
- (xiii) Jute manufactures,
- (xiv) Cotton textiles,
- (xv) Project exports.]

Import of Soda Ash

*395. SHRI SADASIV BAGAITKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government included import of Soda Ash in Appendix 'B' as entry '41 A' on 1st August, 1978 and decided to canalise the import of soda ash through State Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Corporation of India;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same was reviewed within a month and on 4th September, 1978 actual users were allowed to import soda ash without reference to C.P.C.; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI ARIF BAIG): (a) Yes, Sir. The import of Soda Ash was canalised through the State Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Corporation of India on 1st August, 1978.

(b) and (c) Public Notice No. 65-ITC(PN)/78 dated the 4th September, 1978 was issued to allow Actual Users to import soda ash against firm contracts/commitments entered into with overseas suppliers before 1st August, 1978. This was done to enable Actual Users to honour such firm commitments made by them.

R.B.I.'s directive regarding quick disposal of loan applications from artisans and cottage industrial units

*396. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has issued a directive that within a period of 30 days commercial banks should dispose of applications for credit facilities upto Rupees 1 lakh from artisans village and cottage industrial units; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To ensure timely sanction of credit facilities to artisans, village and cottage industries and small scale industries in the tiny sector, Reserve Bank of India has instructed the commercial banks on 12-12-1978 to dispose of all proposals upto Rs. 1 lakh within a period of 30 days from the date of receipt of the application. The banks have also been advised to vest all branch managers with discretionary powers to sanction proposals upto Rs. 25,000, without reference to any higher authority. If any bank has any immediate difficulty in extending such discretionary powers to all its branches, it has been advised to create the necessary administrative machinery at least at the district level for this purpose.

Financial assistance to institutions engaged in training personnel for Cooperative Movement

*397. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are giving any financial assistance to institutions engaged in training personnel for Cooperative Movement;