

ROUTING OF BLOCK LOANS THROUGH URBAN CO-OPERATIVE BANKS

*204. SHRI JAI NARAYAN VYAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Small Scale Industries Board has suggested that at least 10% of the block loans should be routed through urban co-operative banks in the States; and

(b) if so, which States have taken steps to authorise the State Finance Corporations or other agencies to act upon this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MANUBHAI SHAH): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Andhra Pradesh, Bombay and U. P. Governments have appointed the respective State Financial Corporations as their agents for grant of loans to Small Scale Industries. The Mysore State Government have appointed Urban Co-operative Banks as agents for routing loans to small industrialists. The remaining State Governments have not yet issued orders regarding routing of loans either through Urban Co-operative Banks or through State Finance Corporations.

URANIUM METAL'S REQUIREMENT IN INDIA

*207. MOULANA M. FARUQI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the present estimated requirement for Uranium metal in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI LAKSHMI MENON): India's immediate need for uranium metal is estimated at approximately 20 tonnes. This does not include the fuel requirements of the future power reactors.

*208. [Postponed to the 6th May, 1959.]

LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME GROUP HOUSING SCHEMES

*209. SHRI S. C. DEB: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state what amount has been allotted to the Government of Assam under the Low and Middle Income Group Housing Schemes for the year 1959-60 and how that amount compares with the allocation for the year 1958-59?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI ANIL K. CHANDA): The allocations made to the Assam Government under these two Schemes for 1958-59 were:

(a) Low Income Group Housing Scheme—Rs. 14.75 lakhs.

(b) Middle Income Group Housing Scheme—Rs. 8.0 lakhs.

In addition to these amounts, the State Government drew an additional sum of Rs. 3.33 lakhs under the Low Income Group Housing Scheme by diversion of savings from other Housing Schemes.

Allocations of Central assistance for 1959-60 to State Governments for various development heads including Housing Schemes are being worked out and are expected to be finalised shortly.

ABOLITION OF REBATE ON HANDLOOM CLOTH

*210. SHRI MAHESWARNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are actively considering the abolition of rebate system on the handloom cloth;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and