

improving the quality of Coir and Coir products. Accordingly, Coir Board has provided training to 2498 women artisans during the last three years besides conducting 24 EDP/Seminar/workshop/Exposure tours. Coir Board has also attended 27 exhibitions/fairs in Assam during the same period for popularization of Coir and allied products.

(b) Coir Board has no scheme for coconut plantations in the State of Assam or elsewhere in the country.

Credit for micro sub-sector

860. SHRI PYRIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decision regarding reserving a certain minimum percentage of credit for the micro sub-sector out of the MSME priority sector; and

(b) the manner in which Government intends to enforce this percentage and whether any steps have been devised to obtain the willing cooperation of banks?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) and (b) In terms of the recommendations of the Task Force on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) under the chairmanship of the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks in June, 2010 to achieve a 20 per cent year-on-year growth in credit to micro and small enterprises (MSEs) and a 10 per cent annual growth in the number of micro enterprise accounts. Further, banks have been advised to allocate 60 per cent of the MSE advances to the micro enterprises, to be achieved in stages *viz.*, 50 per cent in the year 2010-11, 55 per cent in the year 2011-12 and 60 per cent in the year 2012-13.

Empowered Committees on MSMEs constituted under the chairmanship of the Regional Directors of RBI review periodically the progress in MSME financing and coordinate with banks/financial institutions and the State Governments to ensure smooth flow of credit to the sector. In addition, Standing Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor, RBI looks into issues relating to flow of credit to the MSME sector.

Iron-ore mining in Jharkhand

861. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether several proposals have been received from the State Government of Jharkhand seeking approval for allocation of iron-ore mines during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details and status thereof including the number of such proposals pending with Government alongwith the reasons therefor;