

NEW INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES

A total of 145 new industrial companies with a total capital of JD 17.2 million were registered with the Ministry of Industry and Trade in the first half of 1983, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Ministry. It said that the new industries created new jobs for 697 male and 56 female workers. According to the bulletin, the value of equipment employed in the new industries amounted to JD 14.5 million.

ACTIVITIES OF THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT CORPORATION

The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) is contributing very effectively towards Jordan's agricultural development by lending money to farmers to carry out a wide variety of projects, according to an ACC spokesman.

He said that loans granted to farmers have helped in the construction of irrigation networks, the drilling of artesian wells, and the reclamation of land so as to increase agricultural output. These loans extended are of three types: The short-term loans payable over 12 months which carry an interest repayment of eight per cent; medium-term loans payable over 10 years at six to seven per cent, and long-term loans payable over periods ranging between 11 and 20 years with an interest of six to seven per cent.

The spokesman said that loans are granted to farmers if they own land or if they lease land to develop it and grow crops. Most of the loans granted to farmers, he said, have been used to finance the purchase of farm equipment, fertilisers and seeds, to build up poultry or sheep farms, and to set up greenhouses and build retaining walls. Also loans have gone to larger projects to establish food processing and canning industries, to drill wells, and to build olive oil press plants, the spokesman added.

For larger projects, the ACC conducts feasibility studies and offers advice to farmers free of charge, the spokesman said.

The ACC announced recently that in the first half of this year it granted loans to 432 farmers totalling JD 2.444 million. These loans financed 292 projects around the country.

SOCIAL SECURITY EXTENDED

The Social Security Corporation (SSC) is in the process of applying a new stage of social security provisions to cover new categories of employees in private sector organisations as from the beginning of 1984, according to press reports.

The SSC is taking new measures in accordance with its plans and to cover everyone by social security provisions, an SSC spokesman said.

Some 186,000 people are currently covered by social security of whom 132,596 are Jordanians.