

Russia unveils new measures to boost economy

MOSCOW, Aug 16: Russia, treading a fine line between subsidising industrial dinosaurs and promoting productive investment, announced a series of new measures yesterday to boost economy, reports Reuter.

Under a decree signed last week by President Boris Yeltsin, enterprises will be able to compete for 4.2 trillion roubles (2 billion dollars) in state credits to be used on investment projects or to help them convert to other activities.

But, underlining the change from the old days of easy money on demand for insatiable state enterprises, the loans must all be repaid and the companies will have to come up with part of the money themselves.

"We are trying to give state credits only after an enterprise invests its own money," Deputy Economics Minister Vladimir Kosov told a news conference.