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(a) whether the work at the Magneite Project of Indian Refractories Limited in Pithoragarh (U.P.) has been stopped;

(b) whether Government propose to close down this factory;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to resume the work there?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). Bharat Refractories Limited had a proposal to set up a Rotary Kiln Complex at Pithoragarh (Devalthal) for production of Dead Burnt Magnesite to cater to the needs of their refractory plant situated at Bhilai. The financial and economic viability of the project became doubtful on account of changes in circumstances of the refractory industry. Decision to implement the project could not, therefore, be taken.

Amaigamation of Purbanchal Bank Limited with Central Bank of India

863. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to amalgamate the Purbanchal Bank Limited with the Central Bank of India;

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from the employees of the Purbanchal Bank Limited against the amalgamation;

(c) the details of the other representations received against the amalgamation; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHAS-TRI): (a) to (d). Government had earlier decided that the Purbanchal Bank Limited (PBL), Guwahati, may be converted into a subsidiary company of the State Bank of India by transferring the shareholding held by the United Bank of India to State Bank of India. There were representations both from Purbanchal Bank Employees Association as also from the Assam Provincial Bank Employees Association urging that the Purbanchal Bank Ltd. may be merged either with Central Bank of India or with any other nationalised bank. Keeping the interests of the employees as well as the depositors of the bank in view, it has now been decided to amalgamate the Purbanchal Bank Ltd. with Central Bank of India.

Investments by Residents of Madhya Pradesh in UTI

864. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money invested by the residents of Madhya Pradesh in the units of the Unit Trust of India (UTI) upto 31st March, 1990;

(b) whether the Unit Trust of India has invested some amount out of this for the development of Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHAS-TRI): (a) The total sale of units of Unit Trust of India in Madhya Pradesh during it's financial year 1989-90 (July-June) is 31.30 crores.

(b) and (c). The UTI invests its funds in various securities such as equity shares and debentrures of companies and these are mainly by way of secondary market operations through various Stock Exchanges. The UTI does not maintain Statewise data of it's investments through the Stock Exchanges. Apart from such investments, the UTI also provides direct assistance to the corporate sector by way of term loans, deposits etc. Such direct assistance given by the UTI to the corporate sector in Madhya Pradesh amounted to Rs. 71 crores during the 1988-89.

[English]

Collateral Security for Loans

865. SHRI J.P. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints againstbanks that inspite of clearcut instructions not to insist on collateral security for loans upto Rs. 25000/- some banks refused loans to those who do not give such security;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether such complaints have been gone into by bank officials themselves; and

(d) if so, the efficacy of such inquiries made by the guilty persons themselves?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIANIL SHAS-TRI): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the existing data reporting system from banks does not generate information in the manner asked for. As per the instructions issued by RBI the banks should not ask for collateral security, third party guarantee for loans upto and inclusive of Rs. 25,000/-. For loans in excess of Rs. 25,000/ - collateral security by way of immovable properties or third party guarantee may be asked for only in cases where primary security is ingdequate or for other valid reasons. Proposals otherwise viable should not be turned down merely for want of such collateral security or third party guarantee. All complaints against the working of public sector banks are taken up with the banks concerned for appropriate action. Taking into consideration the seriousness of the lapse, if any, on the part of the bank staff, the management of the bank concerned takes action against them as they deem fit in accordance with the service regulations.

[Translation]

Setting up of Doordarshan Relay Centres Under Tribal Sub-Plan in Rajasthan

866. SHRI NANDLAL MEENA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD-CASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up Doordarhan Relay Centres in Pratapgarh, Dhariyaband, Khariwada, Gounda. Jhadol and Abu Parbhat, coming under tribal subplan area in Rajasthan to bring Adivasis into national mainstream; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) and (b). Whereas TV service is already available in parts of Chittaurgarh, Udaipur and Sirohi districts of Rajasthan falling under the Tribal sub-plan, the areas mentiond are not at present covered because of their distance from the existing transmitters. It is the constant endeavour of Government to expand the TV network, especially in tribal areas, as expeditiously as possible, but this can be done only in a phased manner depending upon the availability of resources for this purpose.