

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) No powered support machines were procured by Coal India Limited for the Moonidih project of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. during the last three years.

(b) to (d) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Salboni Currency Note Printing Press

489. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Salboni Currency Note Printing Press has started printing the currency notes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with its capacity;
- (c) whether there is any idle capacity; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In Phase I, one line of Machines have been commissioned with effect from 11-12-96. Till June, 1997, it has produced about 320 million pieces of Rs. 10 denomination notes. The Press has also started a second shift from July 1, 1997.

- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Increase in Opium Rates

490. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any demand from the opium growers for hike in the prices of the opium produced under the licensed areas; and
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. Representations for hike in opium price are received by the Government every year.

(b) Based on such representations, periodical review and revision of the existing opium prices are conducted by the Government. The latest review was conducted during the crop year 1996-97 when the Govt. announced an increase of Rs. 100/- per kg. in the existing opium price slabs.

Bank Branches in Assam

491. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank branches opened in Assam alongwith their locations by Canara Bank, Union Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Corporation Bank since those guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) whether the Bank Employees Committee of Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuba Chatra Parishad is agitating over non-expansion of banking network in Assam, thereby defeating the very idea with which banks were nationalised; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House of the extent available.

[Translation]

Indo-Dutch Project

492. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether his ministry has raised objection on the Indo-Dutch Project of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh even after its clearance by the Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- (b) if so, the details of the objections raised and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) The project agreement will be signed shortly.

[English]

Production of Coal

493. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of coal mines in Maharashtra alongwith production of coal during the each of the last three years;
- (b) the quantum of coal exported from the State during the last three years and the names of the countries to whom it was exported;
- (c) whether the Government propose to export coal in future also; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The total number of working coal mines under Coal India Limited (CIL) in Maharashtra and the production from them during the last three years is as under:-