

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to persuade steel mills to increase the off-take of iron ore provided by MMTC from Orissa mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH): (a) The details of iron ore procured by MMTC from Orissa Mining Corporation and mincowners of Orissa for supply to steel mills during Sixth Plan period (year-wise) are as under :

Year	Sixth Plan period	Quantity (lakh tonnes)
1980-81	1st Year	11.22
1981-82	2nd Year	10.84
1982-83	3rd Year	10.30
1983-84	4th Year	3.24
1984-85	5th Year	8.84

(b) and (c). Indigenous steel plants primarily meet their requirement of iron ore from their captive mines. Iron ore procured by them through the MMTC is only to meet the shortfalls in supply from their captive mines. The lower offtake from MMTC by indigenous steel plants during 1983-84 is attributed to certain limitations arising due to low capacity utilization, higher inventories etc.

(d) Due to increased demand for iron ore by indigenous steel plants, the quantity procured by them in 1984-85 has been more than double the quantity procured in 1983-84.

Export of Iron-Ore Procured from Barbila Barajmada Sector

7175. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries to which iron ore procured from Barbila-Barajmada sector is proposed to be exported ;

(b) the quantum of iron ore proposed to be exported to those countries in 1985-86;

(c) whether some other countries are willing to buy iron ore available in Barbil Barajmada sector;

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase the export of iron ore procured from Barbil-Barajmada sector to different countries; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SINGH): (a) and (d). The major buyers of iron ore procured from Barbil Barajmada sector and exported through Paradip port are Japan, South Korea, Rumania and G. D. R. A quantity of 2.3 million tonnes is proposed to be exported to different countries from Paradip port during 1985-86.

(c) to (e). Sale contracts for shipments of 2 lakhs tonnes of iron ore from Paradip port to China during 1985-86 have been finalised. Possibilities for shipment of iron ore to Malaysia are being explored. As a result of these efforts, the iron ore exports from this sector during 1985-86 are expected to be at the level of 2.3 million tonnes as against 1.6 million tonnes during the preceding year.

Opening of Branches of Commercial Banks in Pithoragarh District, U.P.

7176. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches opened by various commercial banks in Pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh during the year 1984-85 as also the number of the branches proposed to be opened there during the year 1985-86;

(b) whether he is aware that sixty per cent area and about fifty per cent population of this district is still not served by banks; and

(c) if so, the number of the branches proposed to be opened every year in this district with a view to bring about improvement in this situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). During the period from 1st April 1984 to 28th February 1985, the commercial banks have not opened any branch in Pithoragarh District. The branch licensing policy for the years 1985-90 is being finalised. Pending finalisation of the new policy it would not be possible to indicate the number of bank branches that would be allowed to be opened in the District Pithoragarh. However, banks are currently holding 5 authorisations for opening branches in the District.

The branch licensing policy of the Reserve Bank of India for the period April 1982 to March 1985 aimed at achieving a coverage of one bank office for every 17000 population in rural and semi-urban areas in each district. Relevant figures for Pithoragarh District are set out below :—

Population (All rural/semi-urban)	4,80,000
Number of bank branches functioning as on 31-12-1984	24
Number of authorisations pending with banks for opening branches	5
Average Rural/Semi-urban Population per rural/semi-urban branch.	20,000
Estimated Rural/Semi urban Population per rural/Semi-urban branch after utilisation of pending authorisations.	17,000

Finalisation of Branch Licensing Policy By RBI

7177. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether branch licensing policy in regard to opening of branches by the banks during the Seventh Plan period has since been finalised by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalised;

(c) whether proposals for opening branches of various banks in Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, the total number of proposals in regard to opening of banks branches in Almora and Pithoragarh district pending with it; and

(e) the time by which the branches are likely to be opened at all the proposed places ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The branch licensing policy for the Seventh Five Year Plan period is expected to be finalised shortly.

(c) to (e). The question of opening bank offices in Uttar Pradesh will be considered in the light of the new policy. Authorisations for opening branches at 1449 centres in Uttar Pradesh are, however, pending with various banks. The above figure includes 11 and 5 authorisations pending with banks for centres in Almora and Pithoragarh Districts respectively. The concerned banks have been advised to open the offices at these centres as early as possible.

Discovery of Tungston and Dolomite Deposits in Almora District of Uttar Pradesh

7178. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :