

(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 :