

Expenditure Finance Committee/Public Investment Board, as the case may be, and the funds are provided in the Budget after approval by the Planning Commission etc. as a part of annual plan exercise. The amounts provided for the various projects approved for 1984-85 were indicated in the Budget documents/demands for grants Ministry-wise, presented to Parliament. The amounts actually spent upto 31st March 1985 and funds which lapsed on that date will be compiled by the respective accounting authorities of the Departments concerned. These figures are compiled financial year-wise and in due course placed on the Table of each House of Parliament in the form of appropriation accounts. The Ministry of Finance do not maintain centrally any statistics with regard to the utilisation of amounts as sanctioned in the annual plan or diversions, if any, of sanctioned amounts of one project for utilisation for another.

**Lignite Reserves Found in Kapuradi
in Barmer District, Rajasthan**

4593. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have completed a comprehensive survey through Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited and Geological Survey of India in Kapuradi village in Barmer District of Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of lignite reserves found and the details of the project report thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES
AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :**
(a) No, Sir.

(b) The Mineral Exploration Corporation, on the basis of exploration and laboratory work done upto 1.10.84 has made an interim estimate of 78.67 million tonnes of gross lignite reserves within 1 : 15 lignite overburden ratio in combined and middle lignite horizons in Kapuradi. Projects for mining the lignite can be drawn up only after closer drilling is completed.

**Writing Off of Interest on Loans
Taken by Small Scale Industries from
Nationalised Banks**

4594. SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have any proposal to write off the interests accrued on the loans taken by the sick small scale industries from the different nationalised banks which are overdue for many years;

(b) whether considering the deplorable condition of the industries in West Bengal, Union Government have any proposal to reduce bank interest in case of loans taken by the sick small scale industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal under the consideration of Government of India to reduce bank interest in case of loans taken by the sick small scale industries in West Bengal.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Reserve Bank of India has allowed Banks some discretion to reduce their rates of interest on a case by case basis where the rehabilitation of a sick unit, considered viable, so necessitates.

**Shifting of Sunflag Steel Plant from
Bhandara**

4595. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported shifting of Sunflag Steel Plant from Bhandara due to the non-availability of adequate water supply; and

(b) if so, the action taken to retain the plant at Bhandara ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. No proposal has been received by Government requesting for the shifting of the Sunflag Steel Plant from Bhandara.

(b) Does not arise.

Miners Working Seven Days a Week

4596. SHRI Y. P. YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether miners under the Coal India Ltd. are being made to work on all the seven days of a week by paying massive amount of overtime allowance in contravention of the Mines Act;

(b) if so, the amount of Overtime Allowance paid to miners every month during the period from January 1982 to February 1985; and

(c) the action Government propose to take against the management of all coal mines for making the miners to work for seven days a week without giving them rest for one day during the week ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Coal miners under Coal India Ltd. are not being made to work on all the seven days of the week in violation of the Mines Act. The opencast mines are worked on all the seven days of the week but the provisions of Mines Act are duly observed by giving staggered weekly day of rest to the workers. Some of the underground mines are also occasionally worked on weekly days of rest for attending to maintenance jobs etc. and in such cases compensatory leave is allowed to the workers and they are also paid double the normal wages as required under the Mines Act.

(b) The details of rest day wages paid to workers are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

Opening of Branches of State Bank of India for Development of Agriculture

4597. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Bank of India has opened its branches in dealing exclusively for the development of agriculture;

(b) if so, the number of branches for the development of agriculture opened in Madhya Pradesh so far;

(c) the amount of credit and other assistance given by Agriculture Development Bank branches of SBI in that State in 1984-85; and

(d) the details of the measures taken by State Bank of India for the development of agriculture in that State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). State Bank of India has set up Agriculture Development Branches mainly for financing activities relating to Agriculture and Rural Development. According to available information, 31 such branches are reported to be functioning in Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Data reporting system of the Reserve Bank of India does not yield information in the manner asked for.

(d) Over the years, banks including State Bank of India have taken several measures to increase their lendings to Agriculture. These include adoption of simplified loan application forms, relaxation of security and margin norms, delegation of adequate discretionary powers to Branch Managers, disposal of loan applications within stipulated time limit, provision of concessional rates of interest to small farmers etc.

Guidelines Issued for Improvement in Working of Branches of SBI in Madhya Pradesh

4598. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :