

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 :