

at Ananta with French assistance are in progress.

(v) New opencast projects namely Ananta and Kalinga are also being planned for development to meet the increasing requirement of coal by the Power Sector.

(vi) Feasibility of updating the mining methods in Nandira underground and Talcher underground mines is also being examined.

(vii) Drawing up a master Plan of Talcher coalfield have also been taken up to identify major coal mining blocks for exploration and infrastructural requirements.

Exploration of New Gold Mines

1453. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government for the exploration of new gold mines in the country;

(b) if so, the number of the new gold mines which have been explored during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(c) the location of each of these gold mines;

(d) the approximate quantum of gold

deposited in these mines; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Sixth Five Year Plan period, several areas in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa were covered for gold exploration by GSI, MECL and State Government agencies.

(c) As a result of the exploration surveys carried out, gold mineralisation has been located in Chigargunta and Mallappakonda areas in Chittoor district and Kottapalle block in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh, and in the extension areas of the Hutti and Gadag Gold Fields in Karnataka.

A gold mining project has been started at Yeppamana, Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh. The Hutti Gold Mines Limited is developing the Mangalur prospect in Gulbarga district to study its economic viability. Investigations for gold are continuing in various other parts of the country.

(d) and (e) . The reserves of gold ore found in the various deposits are roughly estimated as follows :—

State	District	Location	Quantum of ore Reserves and Grade (in Million Tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Mallappakonda	0.77 (2.4 to 4 gm/tonne)
	Chittoor	Chigargunta	4.19 (4 to 5 gm/tonne)
	Anantpur	Yerrappa-Gantalappa	Exploration is in progress
	Anantpur	Yeppamana	3.57 (with 4.69 gm/tonne)
Karnataka	Anantpur	Kothapalle (Ramgiri)	Results not significant.
	Raichur	Huttutti Areas (Wondali Kadoni. etc)	1.92 with 3 gm/tonne.

1	2	3	4
	Dharwar	Gadag areas (Hosur block)	1.23 (with 1 to 5 gm/tonne)
	Shimoga	Honnali	Exploration is in progress
	Gulbarga	Mangalur Schist belt	HGML started development of a new mine.
Kerala	Mallapuram Mallapuram	Maruda Nilambur placer	0.3 (with 4 gm/tonne) 38 Million cubic meters gravel with average grade of 0.1 gm of gold, per cubic meter.

Minor occurrences of gold have been found so far in Bihar, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, Exploration work in these States is continuing.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks Abroad

1454. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened abroad during 1984, country-wise;

(b) the number of branches of foreign banks opened in India together with their location during the same period; and

(c) the number of branches of foreign banks likely to be opened during the year 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). During the year 1984, one Indian bank opened a branch in Japan.

One Foreign bank opened a branch at Bombay. Another Foreign bank opened a branch at New Delhi by upgrading its Representative Office and by closing its branch at Calcutta.

(c) Licences have been granted by the Reserve Bank of India to two Foreign banks to open a branch each in India. However, it is not certain whether these branches would become operative during 1985.

Disparity in Rate of Interest on Saving Accounts in Banks and Post Offices

1455. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of interest given to customers on saving accounts in the banks is 5 per cent while it is 5 1/2% in Post office;

(b) if so, the reasons of this disparity;

(c) whether due to this disparity in the rate of interest the customers prefer to deposit the amount in Post Office saving accounts than in banks; and

(d) whether it is proposed to remove this disparity and if so, from when ?