

(d) The amount of Rs.7984.05 lakhs mentioned in the Report represents estimated commitment for capital expenditure which is disclosed in the Annual Accounts in accordance with Company's Act and does not represent expenditure. As such the question of production of vouchers for the aforesaid amount does not arise.

(e) As no misuse of money is involved, question of taking any action does not arise.

#### Accounting Lapses Detected at BCCL

1532. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has not found any documents in regard to debt balance of Rs.5.42 lakh, current expenditure amounting to Rs.2270.46 lakh and purchase of land for Rs. 228.07 lakh in 1983 during the auditing of the accounts of Bharat Coking Coal Limited; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government for incurring such a huge wasteful expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on

the Table of the House.

[English]

#### Opening of New Branches of Banks in Midnapur District

1533. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India for opening new branches by different nationalised banks from the middle of 1983 to February, 1985 in Midnapur District, West Bengal, bank-wise figures thereof;

(b) the number of new branches actually opened during this period;

(c) whether any bank has surrendered any of these licences, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Available information relating to the number of authorisations/ licences issued to the Public Sector Banks from April 1983 to February 1985 for opening branches at rural/ semi-urban centres in Midnapore District, West Bengal and the number of branches opened by them till the end of December 1984 is set out below :

Name of the Public Sector Bank	Number of authorisations/licences issued for Rural/Semi-Urban Centres	Of which the number of authorisations/licences utilised till the end of December 1984 for opening branches
1	2	3
State Bank of India	24	6
United Bank of India	25	1
United Commercial Bank	39	—
Bank of India	7	—

1	2	3
New Bank of India	2	1
Allahabad Bank	14	4
Canara Bank	3	—
Punjab National Bank	19	6
Indian Bank	3	—
Central Bank of India	8	—
Indian Overseas Bank	3	—

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India have received a request from the Indian Overseas Bank for surrendering one centre Hijla out of the three centres allotted to it, for want of basic infrastructural facilities.

**Excise Duty Evasion by Leading Cigarette Manufacturing Companies**

1534. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some leading cigarette manufacturing companies have been recently found involved in avasion of Central excise duty to the tune of several crores of rupees; and.

(b) if so, the details of these companies, the amount involved and the action taken or proposed to be taken against them ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY)** : (a) and (b). A show cause notice dated 2-3-1985 has been issued to M/s. National Tobacco Company Ltd., Calcutta under the provisons of Central Excise law demanding excise duty of about Rs.4.08 crores alleged to have been avaded by mis-declaration of the sale price of cigarettes.

**Steps taken to Improve Performances of Public Sector Steel Plants**

1535. **SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY** : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government have taken to improve the performances of public sector steel plants to make them more economically viable and competitive;

(b) the details of the steps taken to bring the technology of steel production at par with other advanced countries of the world;

(c) whether any proposal for importing techonlogy in this sector is being worked out; and.

(d) if so, the detatils thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH)** : (a) and (b) Following steps have been taken to improve performance of Public Sector Steel Plants in the country :

(i) **Increased Production** : Production in the public sector integrated steel plants of SAIL (including IISCO) is planned to