

location of new branches of Bank of Baroda in Raigarh district, Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There were 56 branches of Bank of Baroda functioning in Madhya Pradesh as at the end of March 1985.

(b) to (d) The question of opening more bank offices of Bank of Baroda in the State will be considered by Reserve Bank of India in the light of the branch licensing policy for the Seventh Five Year Plan period which is being finalised.

#### Procurement of raw cashew

687. SHRI M. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Central Government to promote/encourage the procurement of raw cashew and export of cashew nuts in Kerala ?

(b) whether any funds have been allotted during the year 1984-85 for the above purpose and the amount thereof ; and

(c) whether the above funds have been advanced by way of subsidy or whether the same is repayable ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) The procurement of cashewnuts in Kerala is open to the trade. In addition, the Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation also procures cashew and the State Government has been fixing a floor price from time to time to ensure remunerative returns to cashew growers. However, at present the entire domestic crop is being absorbed by the trade and the domestic production has to be supplemented with imports of raw cashew. In order to promote the procurement of cashewnuts the import policy has been liberalised by the Central Government and imports are now under

OGL with the only stipulation being that imports be registered with the Cashew Corporation of India within seven days from the execution of the import contract.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Export of iron ore from Kudremukh to Czechoslovakia

689. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK :

SHRI R.M. BHOYE :

Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a long term arrangement with Czechoslovakia for the export of iron ore from 'Kudremukh' recently ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the deal in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) The Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited have been exporting iron ore concentrate from Kudremukh to Czechoslovakia since 1982-83 on a year to year basis. The company have recently signed a contract with M/s. Kerametal Foreign Trade Company Limited, Czechoslovakia for the export of 125,000 tonnes of iron ore concentrate (additional 75,000 tonnes at the buyer's option) from Kudremukh to Czechoslovakia during 1985-86. Shipment against this contract has already started.

#### Export of cut and polished diamonds by M.M.T.C.

690. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has undertaken export of cut and polished diamonds and if so, the value of exports for the last two years and the salient features of the plan for the year 1985-86;