

(a) whether the State Bank of India has opened on Industrial Finance Branch in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a high coordination committee has been formed to sort out the problems of entrepreneurs; and

(d) the steps taken by the SBI in Orissa to help the medium and large industries in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that they have issued one licence to State Bank of India (SBI) in February, 1992 for opening a specialised Industrial Finance Branch in Bhubaneswar, District Puri in Orissa. SBI has not yet opened the branch.

(c) and (d). SBI has constituted a coordination committee alongwith various financial institutions to sort out the problems of entrepreneurs.. Necessary organisational set up has been created at the local Head Officer of SBI to provide finance to medium and large industries in Orissa. A constancy Cell has also been created to provide guidance to the industries in the matters relating to foreign exchange. Merchant Banking Bureau at Local Head Office of SBI extends support to industries in issue management and other financial services.

Arjun Tank

3531. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN:
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

SHRIMATI BHAVAN CHIKHLIA:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Main Battle Tank 'Arjun' has been accepted by the Armed Forces for induction into the services;

(b) the special features of this tank;

(c) whether the production agency has been identified;

(d) whether any trial orders have been placed;

(e) the date by which the first batch of production unit is likely to join field service; and

(f) the estimated cost of production of this tank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MBT Arjun is a state-of-the-art tank with high agility, excellent mobility, composite 'Kanchan'- armour for all round protection and a very accurate/lethal fire power.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Based on the performance demonstrated by MBT Arjun in recent trials; the Army HQ has indicated their intention for equipping two Armoured Regiments with Arjun tank by the year 2002.

(f). Rs. 7 Crore.