

**Opening of branches of Nationalised Banks in Thana District of Maharashtra**

6495. SHRI R. K. MHALGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme drawn up for opening of new branches of the nationalised banks in the District of THANA (Maharashtra) during the next two years; and

(b) if so, the details and time schedule thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) The banking coverage in Thana District with 85 rural and 64 semi-urban branches of commercial banks worked out to one branch for every 13,000

rural/semi-urban people as at the end of December, 1979. It is not, therefore, a deficit district with reference to the norm of rural/semi-urban branch for every 20,000 rural/semi-urban people adopted by the Reserve Bank for its current branch licencing policy for 1980-81. The State Government have also not suggested any centre in this District for branch opening during 1979-81.

The Reserve Bank of India has, however, reported that as at the end of June, 1980, 6 licences issued to the banks on their individual applications were pending implementation. These offices are expected to be opened before the end of 1981. Names of the centres to which these licences relate are set out below:—

Name of Centre	Name of Allottee Bank	Category of Centre
1. Thane . . . . .	Bank of Maharashtra	Urban
2. Thane . . . . .	United Commercial Bank	Do.
3. Thane . . . . .	New Bank of India	Do.
4. Vashi Turbe (Mafco) . . . . .	Syndicate Bank	Rural
5. Kalyan . . . . .	Do.	Semi-Urban
6. Bhivandi . . . . .	United Western Bank Limited	Do.

**Investment in Industrial Undertakings of South**

6496. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:  
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:  
SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Financial Institutions and Banks which have ploughed public funds worth crores of rupees into some of the larger industrial undertakings in the South in order to bail them out of their difficulties have become increasingly apprehensive about the safety of their investment;

(b) if so, whether the financial bodies proposed to initiate an independent probe by some outside consultancy firm into the working of some of the units whose performance has not come up to their expectation; and

(c) if so, what are the units in respect of which such enquiry is proposed to be held?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Melting Scrap Import Licenced to Arc Furnaces**

6497. SHRI BANWARI LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of melting scrap import licensed to arc furnaces, unit-wise, during the years 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(b) the quantity of melting scrap imported, unit-wise, during 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(c) the quantity of melting scrap, if any, proposed to be licenced during 1980-81?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) No import took place during 1977-78. Unit-wise import during 1978-79 were reported as below:—

Name of Unit	Quantity in tonnes
M/s. Tamilnadu Steel . . .	8119
M/s. Briadvan Alloys . . .	1461
M/s. Bhoruka Steel . . .	4060
M/s. Shimoga Steel . . .	1461
M/s. Canara Steel . . .	1218
M/s. Mukand Iron . . .	11072
M/s. Mukand Iron . . .	12000
M/s. Mahindra Ugine . . .	3250
M/s. Saughvi Steel . . .	1489
M/s. Zenith Special Steels . . .	1485
M/s. Piramal Steel . . .	1485
M/s. D.B. Steel Castings . . .	740
M/s. MP Udyog, Kanpur . . .	700

(c) The quantum of import during 1980-81 will depend upon the registration of demand by the actual users with the canalising agency in keeping with the policy/procedure, and such limited direct imports as are permitted under the policy.

**Import of Melting Scrap under O.G.L.**

6498. SHRI BANWARI LAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of melting scrap is under O.G.L. but canalised through the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, why are furnaces were issued individual import licences and allowed to do direct import during 1977-78 and 1978-79; and

(c) whether it is proposed to follow the same procedure during the current fiscal year treating melting scrap import as decanalised for all practical purposes?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. Import of steel melting scrap of all grades is in the canalised list for import in terms of the policy for 1980-81. The canalising agency, Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Ltd, can, however, import under the Open General Licence.

(b) The electric furnace units in the country had been passing through a difficult time and quite a few of them had closed down. To revive them in the interest of national economy, Government extended certain concessions to them. One of the steps that had to be taken was to supplement the indigenous supply of ferrous melting scrap, which according to reports, was not adequate to sustain a high level of production by the mini-steel plants. To save time and in the hope that the measure will encourage the individual units to import limited quantities of ferrous melting scrap, such *ad hoc* permission was granted to these units for a short period to directly import limited quantities of scrap. This was subsequently supported by the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Government, on which the indigenous scrap industry was adequately represented, to resort to imports when the production of liquid metal by the mini-steel plants rises beyond 1.7 m.t.

(c) No, Sir. The procedure being followed now does not allow all mini-steel plants to import ferrous melting scrap directly. However, in the light of the recommendation of the Committee mentioned in (b) above, some direct imports are being permitted.