

(b) whether the jute mill owners intend to wage cut to overcome the crisis ; and

(c) the steps, the Union Government propose to take in this respect to save the jute industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):

(a) As a result of four successive short jute crops beginning from 1981-82 (July-June) there is shortage of raw jute in the market.

(b) The Indian Jute Mills Association has submitted a proposal suggesting production control.

(c) The Government have regulated the stock holdings of jute mills under the jute (Licensing and Control) Order, 1961 to bring about more equitable distribution of raw jute. The Government have also arranged import of raw jute from abroad.

[*Translation*]

Reorganisation of Existing Tax Structure

278. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to reorganise the existing tax structure ;

(b) if so, whether any high-powered committee would be set up for necessary advice for the purpose ; and

(c) if so, the time by which this work is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) The process of reorganisation and rationalisation of the tax structure is a continuing one. Various measures in this regard have been introduced through the Annual Finance Bills in the past ; and a few such measures have been taken through specific acts like Taxation Laws Amendment Act, 1984.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Districts of Almora and Pithoragarh

279 SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) the number and names of branches opened by the State Bank of India during 1984-85 in the districts of Almora and Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh and the number of branches proposed to be opened there in the near future indicating the locations thereof ; and

(b) the reasons for opening less number of branches in the above districts during this year by this bank and also by other banks and the action proposed to be taken to open more branches in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) During the period April to December 1984, the State Bank of India has not opened any branches in Almora and Pithoragarh Districts. The bank is, however, holding licences for opening branches at the following centres :—

District	Centre
Almora	Daulaghat
Pithoragarh	Nakote
	Pankhoo
	Pokhari.

It has been advised to utilise the pending licences before 31.3.1985.

(b) During the current branch licensing policy period April 1982 to March 1985, the districts Almora and Pithoragarh required only 8 and 4 additional bank offices respectively. The number of bank offices opened between April 1982 and December 1984 was 20 in Almora District and 5 in Pithoragarh District.

Further expansion of branches in these districts would be considered