

(b) the results achieved so far Statewise ; and

(c) further steps taken in this regard and the target fixed for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN : (a) A number of programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Labour Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) have been under implementation to bring the weaker sections of society above poverty line. These programmes are aimed at increasing the income of the weaker sections by creation of assets leading to a steady flow of income or of employment.

(b) In the first four years of the Sixth Plan (1980—84), 12.58 million families have been assisted through the IRDP and 1,428 million mandays of employment have been generated through the NREP and the RLEGP.

(c) As envisaged in the Approach to the Seventh Five Year Plan, the package of poverty alleviation programmes will continue at an accelerated pace in the Seventh Plan period.

#### Development of Iron Ore Mines

23. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken for the development of iron ore mines in the country ;

(b) if so, the specific steps taken in last three years for the development of iron ore mines in Orissa ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c)'. The production capacity in Orissa is very large compared to the present production. Enhanced production of iron ore on account of increased domestic steel production or higher exports of iron ore is likely to be met from the existing capacities itself.

#### Setting up of Nickel Project in Sukinda, Orissa

24. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Nickel Project near Sukinda in Orissa ;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). Sanction was issued earlier based on preliminary feasibility report envisaging the use of the indigenous technology for setting up of Sukinda Nickel Project. However, the project could not progress as the indigenous technology chosen failed when tried on pilot plant scale. The indigenous technology having failed, foreign consultancy had to be chosen judiciously. An expert deputed by Candian International Development Agency carried out a preliminary evaluation of the available data and according to his report, it would be necessary to undertake additional exploration, laboratory and pilot plant test work, before feasibility report can be prepared. A scheme for additional exploration has been prepared. Offers were invited from foreign consultants for review of exploration data and laboratory and pilot plant test work. Based on the offers received selection of a suitable consultant is under

finalisation by Hindustan Copper Limited. Once this exercise is completed the whole question of taking up of additional exploration and test work on the Sukinda Nickel ores will be considered.

**Opening of new Branches of  
Commercial Banks**

25. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for the opening of new branches of various commercial banks in different States and Union Territories during the Sixth Plan ;

(b) the State-wise achievement made in this regard so far ; and

(c) the details of the programme prepared to achieve the Sixth Plan bank expansion programme ?

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

current branch licensing policy covers the period from April 1982 to March 1985 and aims at achieving a coverage of one bank office for every 17,000 population on the basis of 1981 census in the rural and semi urban areas. For the stipulated norms of population coverage, 7540 branches were required to be opened during the policy period in rural/semi-urban areas of deficit districts. In addition, 823 branches were proposed to be opened in non-deficit districts.

(b) State-wise details of the increase in the number of branches between 31.3.82 to 30.6.84 and also authorisations/licences pending with the banks as on 30.6.84 are set out in the statement.

(c) The State Governments were to identify centres for opening new bank branches on the basis of the recommendations of District Consultative Committee. During the current policy period, so far about ten thousand centres have been allowed to banks for opening offices in rural and semi-urban areas on the basis of such recommendations and also on the basis of proposals received from individual banks.

**Statement**

*State-wise/Union Territory-wise increase in the number of branches of commercial banks in the country between 31.3.82 and 30.6.84 as also the number of authorisations/licences pending with them as on 30.6.84*

State/Union Territories	Rural	Semi urban	Urban	Metro-politan/Port Towns	Total	Autorisations/Licences pending as on 30.6.84
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Andhra Pradesh	451	23	29	30	533	425
2. Assam	134	27	4	—	165	221
3. Bihar	426	25	26	—	477	712
4. Gujarat	252	24	22	24	322	205
5. Haryana	109	16	19	—	144	27