

the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a representation demanding opening of an Army Recruitment Sub-Centre at Pithoragarh in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the time by which the Recruitment Sub-Centre will be set up there ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The matter is receiving attention of the Government.

Opening of Branches by Nainital-Almora Regional Rural Bank

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

(a) the number of licences granted by the Reserve Bank of India to the Nainital-Almora Regional Rural Bank so far for opening its branches at various places;

(b) the number of the branches opened by this Bank in Almora; and

(c) the reasons for delay in opening its branches in Almora and the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Including the licences under issue Nainital Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank was to open 47 branches—24 in Nainital and 23 in Almora. Of these it has opened 23 branches—12 in Nainital and 11 in Almora.

(c) : The process of branch expansion of the Bank is continuing and the matter

of expeditious implementation of the pending licences is being pursued by the Reserve Bank of India with the Bank.

Modernisation of Steel Industry

353. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for modernisation of steel industry in the country keeping in view the competition prevailing in the world in the field of steel production; and

(b) if so, the details of this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Schemes for modernisation and technological upgradation of public sector steel plants at Durgapur, Rourkela & IISCO (Burnpur) have been prepared and are at various stages of consideration of the Government.

Scheme are also under formulation for de-bottlenecking of Bhilai & Bokaro steel plants so as to enable these plants to achieve their rated capacities.

TISCO embarked on a modernisation programme in 1980 under which the major units were commissioned in March, 1983 in the first phase.

So far as mini steel and re-rolling sectors of steel industry are concerned, Government's policy is to give all encouragement for modernisation and technological upgradation of the units.

For new units to be set up in the mini steel and re-rolling sectors, Government's approval for the proposals falling within the guidelines is accorded only if these proposals are based on modern technology.