

wattle extract by the indigenous producing unit, during the three years 1977 to 1979, was about 2645 tonnes.

(b) About 20,000 tonnes per annum.

(c) The indigenous unit represented that it was facing difficulty in selling its produce. According to information available, its average sales during the three years 1977 to 1979 were 2624 tonnes as against its average production of 2645 tonnes.

(d) The existing rated capacity of production of the indigenous unit is 9,000 tonnes per annum. Government are not aware whether the unit has the necessary resources to expand its production to meet the entire demand of the country. Import of this item is, however, allowed under the current policy.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Kalahandi, Orissa

4820. SHRI RASA BEHARI BEHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open new branches of nationalised banks in the interior part of the Kalahandi District of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Uchala, Mangalpur in Jaipatna Block, Mahichala, Tarapur, Dasigaon in Junagarh Block, Berda Pastikudi in Sadar Block, Bena-gaon in Lanigarh Block, Teresingh in Karlamunda Block, are proposed to be considered as the location for these branches;

(c) if so, by what time these branches will be opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) In pursuance of its branch licensing policy for the 3 year period 1979-81, the Reserve Bank is seeking to ensure

that the branch expansion efforts of the commercial banks are primarily devoted to the opening of branches at unbanked rural/semi-urban centres in districts having poorer coverage than one bank branch per 20,000 rural/semi-urban population. The locations for the new branches are decided upon in consultation with the State Governments and the banks. Government of Orissa had recommended to the Reserve Bank 33 centres in this District for branch opening. Authorisations in respect of 26 centres are reported to have been issued. Since the other 7 centres were either banked or licensed the State Government has been asked by the Reserve Bank to suggest alternate centres.

(b) to (d). None of these centres have been recommended by the Government of Orissa for branch opening during the year 1979-81.

Production and Consumption of Tea

4821. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of tea produced during 1979 and 1980;

(b) the quantity of tea required for home consumption during the above period;

(c) the quantity and value of tea exported during the last five months; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) 1979: 546.32 million kgs. 1980: 134.37 million kgs. (Estimated) (Jan—May).

(b) 1979-80: 337.00 million kgs. (Estimated). 1980-81: 358.00 million kgs. (Estimated).

(c) and Quantity Value (January 1980 to May, 1980) 82.33 million kgs. Rs. 149.94 crores (provisional figures).