

In addition, as at the end of June, 1981, the commercial banks were holding 9 authorisations for opening offices in the district.

The bank branches are expected to cater to the banking needs of not only the centres where these are located but also of the villages in surrounding areas. While the branch network of the rural semi-urban areas is being further strengthened, keeping in view the overall considerations of viable operations, it may not be feasible for the banks to provide direct coverage to all the remote villages. To ensure that credit facilities become available to residents of such village also, emphasis is being laid on organisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, Farmers' Service Societies and LAMPS etc., and their linkage with the nearby bank branches.

News-item captioned "Government : Ecological balance not to be sacrificed"

4524. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption: Government; ecological balance not to be sacrificed, published in the Times of India dated the 19th November, 1981;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Minister of Steel and Mines in his inaugural address at the three day International Seminar on lead, zinc, and cadmium, suggested that environmental improvement study should be taken up to maintain harmonious ecological balance;

(c) whether Government have decided to make a substantial outlay of over Rs. 122 crores for the development of lead and zinc mines, smelters and treatment plants;

(d) what is the lead and zinc potential in the country ; and

(e) has any plan been drawn up to exploit the reserves mentioned in part (d) above, in view of what has been stated in parts (b) and (c) above ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is aware of the need to maintain ecological balance while developing mineral industry by adopting suitable pollution control measures. It is a fact that the Minister of Steel & Mines in his inaugural address, which in his absence, was read out by Secretary, Deptt., of Mines at the International Seminar on Lead, Zinc and Cadmium held in New Delhi from 18th to 20th Nov., 1981 had emphasised the need to maintain a harmonious ecological balance through concerted efforts to integrate measures for improvement of the environment in the mining and metal industries. Environmental improvement studies will have to be taken up to maintain harmonious ecological balance.

(c) The Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-85) envisages an outlay of Rs. 70.57 crores for the continuing schemes, Rs. 26.86 crores for the new Schemes, Rs. 23.00 crores for replacement and renewals and Rs. 2.40 crores for S. & T. Programmes totalling to Rs. 122.83 crores for the development of zinc-lead mines, smelters and Treatment Plant of Hindustan Zinc Ltd.,

(d) The total lead and zinc ore potential in the country is now estimated at 347 million tonnes containing 1.42% lead and 4.73% zinc.

(e) The Mochia and Balaria mines in Rajasthan are in operation by Hindustan Zinc Ltd., with a capacity to produce 2000 tonnes of ore per day by each mine. The Bandalamottu (Agnigundala) Lead mine in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

has also been developed to produce 200 tonnes of ore per day, which is being raised to 240 T.P.D. The following mines with production capacity shown against each are under development/construction by Hindustan Zinc Ltd.:

	TPD
(i) Rajpura-Dariba Lead Zinc mines (Rajasthan)	3000
(ii) Sargipalli Lead Mine (Sundergarh Distt. Orissa)	500
(iii) Limited development of Zawarmala Lead and Zinc Mines Rajasthan)	400

Detailed Exploration of Baroi Lead Zinc Mine (Udaipur District of Rajasthan) is expected to be completed by the end of 1981-82. Hindustan Zinc Ltd., is also carrying out detailed exploration of Rampura Agucha Zinc-Lead mines (Bhilwara District, Rajasthan) at present. A feasibility study will be initiated for the development of this mine after examination of the exploration results.

Gorubathan Lead-Zinc prospect in Darjeeling district, West Bengal is being taken up for exploration by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited.

Money Advanced by A Nationalised Bank to a Construction Company in Delhi

4525. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI MOHD. ASRAR
AHMED:
SHRI CHIRANJI LAL
SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a nationalised bank is facing a gigantic bad debt of nearly Rs. 3 crores owed by a construction company in the capital ;

(b) if so, details thereof, stating the break-up of the money advanced to the construction company by the Bank from time to time and the circumstances under which the amount was advanced ;

(c) whether, before advancing the amount, the balance sheet was submitted by the construction company concerned for scrutiny, if not, the reasons for advancing the amount without the scrutiny of the balance sheet ;

(d) the manner in which Government propose to recover the amount from the constructions company ; and

(e) has responsibility since been fixed and action taken against those responsible ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROI) :
(a) to (e). As the name of construction company and that of the Bank has not been mentioned in the question, Reserve Bank of India has been asked to ascertain the position. It may, however, be stated that the statutes governing public sector banks and the usages and practices customary among bankers prescribe that information relating to or affairs of the constituents is not divulged. Subject to these limitations, the information, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of more Aerodromes in Tamil-Nadu

4526. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals under the consideration of Government to open any more aerodrome in the State of Tamil Nadu ; and