

(b) whether it is a fact that the production is much less than the demand, if so, the steps taken to increase the production in the country to meet the increasing demand of raw silk;

(c) whether it is also a fact that raw silk is being imported if so, the quantity imported during the last three years and the amount involved;

(d) the names of the countries from whom the import was made and through which agency; and

(e) Government policy in regard to import of raw silk during the year 1984-85 ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :** (a) to (c) The production of raw silk in the country has been 5,700 metric tonnes during the year 1982-83. Normally, the raw silk produced in the country is adequate to meet the demand of the internal market. Further, for increasing production of raw silk, a number of schemes for the development of sericulture are being implemented in the country. In this regard, the World Bank assisted project in Karnataka, the Indo-Swiss Tassar Project covering 8 States and the project for intensive development of muga silk in North-Eastern Region need special mention.

Normally, import of raw silk for internal consumption is not encouraged as a matter of policy for giving support to the local sericulture industry which is the source of livelihood of a large number of agricultural families in the country. Under the present policy, silk is a canalised item for import and the Central Silk Board is the canalising agency for the purpose of direct import of silk. In 1981-82, as a result of shortfall in indigenous production, the Central Silk Board was allowed to import 250 m.t. of raw silk valued at Rs. 5.39 crores from China for distribution to actual users in the country. After this no import of silk has taken place, excepting for boosting exports under REP & ALS.

**Delay in Construction of Sarais in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana**

**9183. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the construction of Sarais by the Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti in the places for which Sarais were sanctioned during the past three years in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana;

(b) if so, the details about the projects sanctioned for these places, targeted dates for completion and the reasons for delay; and

(c) the likely dates by which these would be completed within the Sixth Five Year Plan ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :** (a) to (c) The Bharatiya Yatri Avas Vikas Samiti has approved construction of a Yatrika at Nainadevi, Himachal Pradesh, but the work on this project has been delayed due to poor response to the tender notices. The Samiti is now exploring other avenues to find contractors for this project. The Samiti also has a proposal for construction of a Yatrika at Vaishnodevi and Chandanbari in Jammu and Kashmir, but the Samiti has been facing difficulty in getting land at these places. There is no proposal for any Yatrika project in Punjab and Haryana during the current 6th Plan.

**Relaxation in Population Norms by R.B.I. Regarding Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks**

**9184. PROF. NARIAN CHAND PARASHAR :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India

have relaxed the norms of population and distance in respect of the opening of new branches of nationalised banks at unbanked centres in hilly and backward regions State like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and North Eastern States, which have difficult geographical terrain and sparse population;

(b) if so, the general norms for the opening of branches in rural areas and the relaxation allowed for opening branches in the areas mentioned above;

(c) the number of branches opened under relaxed norms in these areas during the year 1983-84; and

(d) if not, the reasons, therefor and the specific steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India to ensure the successful implementation of 20-Point programme in general and the I.R.D., N.R.E.P. and Self Employment of Unemployed Matriculate youths in particular ?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :** (a) and (b) The main thrust of current branch licensing policy covering the period April 1982 to March 1985 is on improving the availability of banking facilities in the rural areas and on achieving a more even spatial distribution of offices in the country. Hilly regions, regions which are sparsely populated and tribal areas are given special consideration and expansion in such areas is being allowed on comparatively liberal basis taking into account the existing gaps in the availability of banking facilities, growth of economic activities etc. Proposals for opening offices at additional centres are considered keeping in view the need therefor.

(c) and (d) Available data relating to the estimated requirements of offices during the policy period April 1982 to March 1985 according to the norms in respect of the States/Union Territories referred to in the question and the number of centres allotted to banks so far are given below :—

State/Union Territory	Estimated Requirements	No of centres allotted so far
Himachal Pradesh	25	78
Jammu & Kashmir	35	156
<b>North Eastern Region</b>		
Assam	469	274
Manipur	37	31
Meghalaya	17	40
Nagaland	10	10
Tripura	12	26
Arunachal Pradesh	5	9
Mizoram	3	16

According to Reserve Bank, the Government of Assam is yet to suggest additional centres to meet the requirements under the plan.