

coming years to open new branches in the rural areas;

(b) whether training of staff has been taken in hand for the proper projection of such expansion programme; and

(c) whether any three year plan is under preparation in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (c). The nationalised banks have been advised by the Reserve Bank recently to draw up a perspective plan for branch expansion for the 3 year period 1973—1975 indicating therein the number of offices proposed to be opened in rural, semi-urban, urban and metropolitan/port towns so as to enable them to formulate their man power plans also in advance. A continuous attempt is being made by the bank to augment the training facilities to suit the projected man power requirements.

**Lending of Funds by I.F.C. to Mini Steel Plants**

773. SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Finance Corporation has decided to lend funds to mini steel plants;

(b) if so, the gist thereof; and

(c) how would it help in development of mini steel plants in the country?

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):**

(a) to (c). The Industrial Finance Corporation of India has already been extending financial assistance to the industrial concerns for setting up scrap based steel plants (mini-steel plants) for the manufacture of steel billets/ingots and for expansion of such plants. Each such project is appraised by the Corporation on merits subject to its satisfying the tests of technical feasibility and

economic viability in the same way as in the case of other industrial projects

Upto the 31st December, 1972, the Corporation had already sanctioned financial assistance aggregating to Rs. 407.49 lakhs to 7 concerns for setting up mini-steel plants

**Complaint lodged by Cashier of S.B.I., Gorakhpur regarding circulation of Fake Currency Notes of 10 Rupees Denomination**

774. SHRI PILOO MODY:  
SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cashier of the State Bank of India, Gorakhpur, lodged a complaint with the Police recently that fake currency notes of Rs. 10 denomination were in circulation; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI K. R. GANESH): (a) and (b). No formal complaint was lodged by the Cashier of the State Bank of India, Gorakhpur, with the Police authorities; however, during the normal course of Bank's business, four forged notes of Rs. 10 denomination were detected while examining the amounts tendered by four different parties at Gorakhpur Branch, which were sent to the Police authorities in the usual manner as laid down in the Treasury Rules.

**Decline in Private Foreign Investment in India**

775 SHRI PILOO MODY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net foreign private investment in India has considerably declined during the last one year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and