

Opening of branches of nationalised banks in Orissa

5731. SHRI BANAMALI BABU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of Nationalised Banks proposed to be opened during the current year in Orissa; and

(b) how many of them will be opened in Rural areas and how many in urban areas?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN): (a) and (b). In terms of the directive of the Reserve Bank of India, the commercial banks prepare three-year rolling plans for branch expansion. The plan for the first year is a detailed one while those for the subsequent two years are generally in aggregative terms. The banks are currently engaged in formulating their branch expansion plans for the three year period 1974—76. The 14-Nationalised banks had on hand, as at the end of January 1974, 37 licences/allotments for opening new offices in Orissa State. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that 15 more licences for opening offices have been issued to these banks since then. Of these 52 licences/allotments, 34 relate to rural centres, 11 to semi-urban centres and 7 to urban centres/Port Towns.

Setting up of Tourist Hotels in Orissa during Fifth Plan

5732. SHRI BANAMALI BABU : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the target of setting up of tourist hotels in Orissa during the Fifth Five Year Plan period both in private and public sectors; and

(b) what is the target for the first year of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) : (a) and (b). In the Fifth Five Year Plan,

a provision of Rs. 60 lakhs has been proposed for the construction of a 3-Star 75 room hotel at Puri, by the India Tourism Development Corporation, a public sector undertaking. A provision of Rs. 15 lakhs has also been included for the expansion of India Tourism Development Corporation's Travellers' Lodge at Bhubaneswar by 25 rooms.

A Youth hostel of the Department of Tourism, which is estimated to cost about Rs. 5.54 lakhs is under construction at Puri.

In the private sector, a 29-room Hotel project at Bhubaneswar has been approved by the Department of Tourism from the point of view of its suitability for foreign tourists.

Trade deficit in our Imports/Exports

5733. SHRI S. A. MURUGANATHAM: SHRI D. D. DESAI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trends in our exports and imports during the first half of the current financial year indicated a trade deficit which has been widening at an alarming rate; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The trends in our exports and imports during the first half of the current financial year indicated a trade deficit of Rs. 36.9 crores as against the surplus balance of Rs. 65.5 crores during the corresponding period of the preceeding year, as may be seen in the table below:—

	(Rs. crores)	
	April-September	
	1973-74	1972-73
Exports (incl. re-exports)	1074.8	916.3
Imports	1111.7	850.8
Balance of trade	—36.9	+65.5