

Import of Gold and Silver

5877. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Bullion Traders, manufacturers and jewellery exporters to allow them to import gold and silver under Open General Licence Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

LPT and VLPTs in Orissa

5878. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts in Orissa where the Low Power Transmitters (LPT) and Very Low Power Transmitters (VLPT) have been provided during Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the names of the places suggested by Government of Orissa during Seventh Five Year Plan for installation of LPTs and VLPTs in tribal areas of the that State;

(c) whether Government propose to set up as LPT in Gunapur area of Koraput district during the financial year 1990-91; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION

AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (d). A total number of 18 low power (100 W) TV transmitters and one transposer have been commissioned into service during the VII Plan period in Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Mayurbhanj, Baleshwar, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Koraput, Ganjam and Bolangir district of Orissa.

Government of Orissa had suggested establishment of TV transmitters, during VII Plan period, at the following places having significant tribal population:

1. Angul/Talcher
2. Athmallik
3. Bonai
4. Baudh
5. Barbil
6. Deogarh
7. Gunupur
8. Karanjia
9. Malkangiri
10. Parlakhemundi
11. Pallahara
12. Padampur
13. Rairangpur
14. Udala

Whereas there is no approved scheme, at present, for setting-up of a TV transmitter at Gunapur area of Koraput district, extension of TV Service to the uncovered areas of

the State will depend upon the availability of adequate resources for this purpose in the future plant of TV expansion.

Profitability of Commercial Banks

5879. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had advised the commercial banks to improve their profitability in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the steps taken by different banks in that direction;

(c) whether Government have made any analysis of the profitability performance of different commercial banks during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the performance of different commercial banks during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (d). The performance and profitability of public sector Banks is continually reviewed both by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India. Series of measures have been taken by Government and Reserve Bank of India to improve the productivity and profitability of the public sector banks. These include higher coupon rates on Government Securities, higher returns on cash balances maintained with Reserve Bank of India, augmentation of the capital base by Government Reserve Bank of India. Bank have also taken certain measures like enhanced staff productivity through containment of staff growth, enhancement in service charges and economy in expenditure. Banks have also been advised to critically analyse their income and expenditure with the view to finding ways and means for improving their profitability through efficient funds management.

As a result of various measures taken by Government/Reserve Bank of India, the public sector banks have been consistently earning profits for the last several years. Their published profits which stood at Rs. 192.23 crores in 1986 have progressively increased to Rs. 261.80 crores in 1987 and to Rs. 364.90 crores in 1988-89 (at the end of March, 1989). The accounts for the year ended 31st March, 1990 are yet to be finalised.

Court Cases of Indian Overseas Bank in Calcutta

5880. SHRIM.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of court cases of the Indian Overseas Bank in Calcutta have gone up during the last three years;

(b) the amount of legal expenses incurred by the Bank and its branches there during the above period;

(c) whether the officials of the Bank have been following the policy of pursuation and resolving disputes apart from taking recourse to legal action;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(e) the number of legal notices issued during the last three months (as on 31st March, 1990) for new cases; and

(f) the efforts being made to reduce legal action and expenses?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has reported that the number of its court cases in Calcutta has gone up during the last three years.

(b) The information is being collected