

within the current financial year.

### **Opening of Regional office of Bank of India in Kerala**

319. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala is reported to be the only State without any administrative office of the Bank of India;

(b) whether Government propose to open a regional office of the Bank in Kerala.

(c) if so, the steps taken in this regard indicating proposed location and the time by which the regional office would be established; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANAVATE): (a) to (d). The regional offices are opened by the public sector banks keeping in view the level of business, the branch spread in the command area, cost benefit analysis and administrative exigencies. The location of the proposed office is decided by the banks, for which they obtain licence from the Reserve Bank of India. Bank of India has at present only 14 branches in the State of Kerala and, therefore, setting up of a regional office in the

State was not considered a viable proposition by the Bank. The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has recently given its 'in principle' approval to the Bank of India to the opening of a regional office in the State of Kerala. The office would become operational as and when the bank opens more branches in that State.

### **Criminal and Civil cases pending in Delhi High Court**

320. SHRI VJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of criminal and civil cases pending in Lower, District and High Court in Delhi for over a period of 3 to 5 years, 5 to 7 years, 7 to 10 years and above separately;

(b) whether Government propose to provide legal assistance and facilities to the poor and weaker sections of the society for disposal of their cases expeditiously; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWANI): (a) The pendency of cases in the Delhi High Court as on 30.6.89 is as follows:

	<i>Civil</i>	<i>Criminal</i>
3 to 5 years	15438	615
5 to 7 years	9427	530
7 to 10 years	8151	736
Over 10 years	7236	337

Similar information in respect of the Lower and District Courts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.