

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Before nationalisation, there was one bank branch for a population of 65,000. Today the all India figure is that there is one branch for 13,000 people. We have spread the branches throughout the country, particularly in the villages. Now, we have got about 29,837 rural branches throughout the country. The rural areas account for 58.5%. So, efforts are being made to open branches in the rural areas. As per the new branch licencing policy, we are spreading out and even one branch will be there for about 10 kilometres.

Geological Survey in Sikkim

*474. **SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has been conducting a survey in Sikkim ; and

(b) if so, their findings so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Survey of minerals is a continuous process and it is being continued by the Geological Survey of India in Sikkim also. As a result of these surveys, the following minerals have been found :—

(i) Workable polymetallic mineralisation at Rangpo and Dikchu.

(ii) Minor base metal mineralisation at Rorathang and Pashekhan.

(iii) Dolomite deposit at Rishi.

(iv) Small marble occurrences in North and East Sikkim.

During the field season 1985-86, the Geological Survey of India has proposed 23 investigations of different types in Sikkim.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is correct that Sikkim Mining Corporation, Rangpo has been producing polymetallic complex ore and copper, zinc

and concentrates only since 1960, but lead concentrates which contains silver also remains unutilised due to non-availability of technology. If so, I would like to know if such technology will be obtained from abroad and mini smelters set up in Sikkim itself under the 7th plan.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It is quite correct that the Sikkim Mining Corporation which is a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Sikkim is not only mining the polymetallic ore, but is also concentrating it and the production has been going up. I have with me figures for the last three years and I find that both for copper lead and zinc concentrates, the figure is going up. Silver is, of course, in small quantity. It is not true that these are not being used. These are already being smelted at the Ghatshila Smelter so far as copper is concerned and at Vizag Smelter so far as zinc concentrates are concerned. They are not being smelted at the site itself, but at other smelters in the country.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Can't this be done in Sikkim itself ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : There are various considerations for smelting. One of the important considerations is the availability of power. If power is not available, smelting cannot be done.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : Is it not a fact that sometime during 1976, it was reported that there are deposits of uranium and gold in Dikchu, and that the percentage of gold was more than that at the Kolar Gold Fields ?

SHRI K.C. PANT : According to my information, gold has not been found in Sikkim. I have here a list of all the metallic and non-metallic minerals. Silver is there, of course, but gold has not been mentioned. I would be glad to know from the hon. Member if gold has been found somewhere.

DR. V. VENKATESH : As you know, Sir, gold is available in my constituency, the Kolar Gold Mines. Sikkim is a very backward State and it has come recently

under the umbrella of our country. I would like to know, whether the Government is going to establish any industry there based on minerals.

SHRI K. C. PANT : One industry, that is the mining of polymetallic ores and the concentrates has been referred to by the hon. Members, Shrimati Bhandari. Dolomite is mined and dolomite is produced by an industrialist in the private sector. Moreover, the Government of Sikkim is also examining the possibility of using the lime stone and marble for a mini cement plant. There are also promising poly-metallic deposits in other places not only at Rangpo and Dikchu. The prospects are promising there also and it is being investigated for the purpose of further development.

[*Translation*]

**Joint Projects Established in Africa
and South America.**

*475. **SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State :

(a) the number of joint projects established in different countries of Africa and South America during the last two years and the number of those which are proposed to be set up in those countries ;

(b) the total cost of these project ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the concerned countries are not showing the required interest now in the construction of some of these projects ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps being taken for the removal of those causes ?

[*English*]

**THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
SHRI ARJUN SINGH :** (a) to (e) A
(statement is given below.

Statement

(a) According to the information received from Indian promoters, four Indian Joint Ventures have been commissioned in Africa since 1.1.1984. Besides, 12 Indian Joint Ventures are at different stages of implementation in Africa. No Indian joint venture has been established in Latin America and no such proposal is pending.

(b) The total cost of the Joint Ventures which have commenced operation since 1.1.1984 is reported to be Rs. 225 crores approximately.

(c) Government have not received any such information.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, like his election speeches the reply given by the hon. Minister is very brief and it is not possible to make out anything out of it. What I wanted to know was whether the hon. Minister was aware that the number of proposals for joint venture projects from Africa and some other countries were gradually declining during the last few years as compared to the past years. If so, what are the reasons thereof and if not, what is the number of such proposals received every year since 1980 from different countries ?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Hon. speaker, Sir, it is not that a brief reply is not a reply and you all know the result of brief election speech and the hon. Member has a big contribution in that.

Sir, this is not true that there has been a decline in the number of projects. This is also true that there has been delay in execution of many projects due to different reasons, but there is no decline in the number of projects as such.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : 12 proposals were received from African countries before 1980, but no new proposal has been received after 1980. Some new countries—China is prominent among them—are gradually