

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No, Sir. During 1964-65, Geological Survey of India had established a reserve of about 8 million cubic meters of gold bearing gravel in the Nilambur area, containing approximately 1972 kgs. of gold. Surveys carried out by the State Government have indicated reserves of about 30 million cubic meters of gold-bearing gravels in the Nilambur valley in Kerala, having an average grade of 0.1 gram per cubic meter. The quantity of gold is estimated at 300 kgs. Primary gold occurs at Maruda near Nilambur where 0.3 million tonnes of gold ore has been estimated with an average grade of 4 grams/tonne of gold.

(b) Gold had also been located at Chigargunta and Mallappakonda in Chittoor district and Kottapalle block in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh and in extension of the Hutti and Gadag Gold Fields in Karnataka. Investigation for gold has also been taken up in Sonapet area in Bihar; Salaikana, Kalima and Talkoi area in Orissa; parts of Raigarh district of Madhya Pradesh; Dharampuri district in Tamil Nadu; parts of Siwalik belt in Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh where gold mineralisation has been reported.

(c) A mobile plant is reported to have been designed by the State Government of Kerala with assistance from UN experts for pilot scale mining to establish the feasibility of alluvial mining of gold. The exploitation of these deposits on a commercial basis will depend upon their technological viability.

[Translation]

Action Against Officers involved in Fraud Cases in Nationalised Banks

3803. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the class-wise number of officers against whom action has been taken for their involvement in fraud cases in nationalised banks for the last three years ;

(b) the number of cases, out of them, disposed of so far ; and

(c) the number of the cases in respect of which action is still going on and since when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) to (c) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that as per information readily available the number of officials awarded punishment, including conviction, for their involvement in fraud cases during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 (upto 30-6-84) was 528, 609 and 338 respectively. As on 30th June, 1984, the number of employees against whom prosecution was pending in courts was 473, and departmental proceedings were pending, as on that date, against 1283 employees.

[English]

Opening of Branches of Banks in Adivasi Areas

3804. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any target was fixed during the Sixth Five Year Plan to open branches of various banks in Adivasi areas ;

(b) if so, whether bank branches have been opened as per the targets fixed in this regard ;

(c) if not, the names of the banks which have not opened their branches as per the targets ;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the concerned bank officers for not achieving the targets ; and

(e) if so, bank-wise particulars of the officers against whom action has been taken together with details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) to (e) The main thrust of the branch licensing policy for the period April, 1982 to March 1985 was on improving banking facilities in rural areas with greater emphasis on ensuring proper spatial distribution of bank branches. It aimed at achieving a coverage of one bank office for a population of 17,000 in the rural and semi-urban areas by the end of March 1985. Hilly Regions, regions which are sparsely populated and tribal areas have been given special consideration and expansion in such areas has been allowed on a comparatively liberal basis taking into account the exis-

ting gaps in the availability of banking facilities, the need for meeting the banking requirements of identified groups, growth in economic activities etc.

Available information relating to the

number of licences/authorisations pending with commercial banks as at the end of September, 1984 for opening branches in the country is given below :—

Bank Group	No. of licences/authorisations pending	of which number of licences/authorisations for rural/semi-urban centres
State Bank of India	611	502
Associates of State Bank of India	148	86
20-Nationalised Banks	1418	1021
Regional Rural Banks	3652	3650
Private Sector Banks	163	101
Total	5992	5360

With a view to expediting opening of branches at allotted centres, Task Forces consisting of representatives of State Government, NABARD and Reserve Bank has been set up at each of Reserve Bank of India's Regional Offices.

[Translation]

Vacancies in Posts Reserved for SC/ST in Nationalised Banks

3805. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts of different categories reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in the various nationalised banks :

(b) since when these posts have been lying vacant ; and

(c) the steps taken to fill these posts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b) As per information readily available, the backlog as on 1-1-1985 is as follows :

	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Officers	1659	1744
Clerks	3857	4808
Sub-staff	1544	1497
	7060	8049

(c) With a view to improve the intake of candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) in the banks, the banks and the Banking Service Recruitment Boards have taken various steps. These include :

- (i) Holding of pre-recruitment/promotion training courses for SC/ST candidates ;
- (ii) Giving special relaxations in service criteria to candidates belonging to SC/ST candidates in the process of recruitment/promotion ;
- (iii) Interviews of SC/ST candidates are held in separate sittings when the Boards co-opt an SC/ST Member on the Interview Panel ;
- (iv) Holding of exclusive tests for recruitment and promotions of SC/ST candidates ;
- (v) Filling up of vacancies reserved for SC/ST by appointing SC/ST candidates only and not appointing any general candidates against the said reserved vacancies without prior approval of higher authorities.

As a result of such special measures, the intake of SC/ST candidates in the banks has improved considerably.