

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.