

[English]

Setting up of New Division of LIC in Orissa

3806. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the places where Life Insurance Corporation Divisional headquarters are located ;

(b) the State having only one division functioning now ;

(c) whether there is any proposal for setting up new divisions in the country particularly in States like Orissa working with single division ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

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

(a) Divisional headquarters of the Life Insurance Corporation are located in the following 43 cities :—

Delhi, Jullundur, Chandigarh, Ajmer, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kanpur, Meerut, Agra, Varanasi, Indore, Jabalpur, Raipur, Calcutta, Jalpaiguri, Asansol, Gauhati, Silchar, Patna, Muzaffarpur, Jamshedpur, Cuttack, Bangalore, Udupi, Dharwad, Hyderabad, Cuddapah, Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam, Madras, Thanjavur, Madurai, Coimbatore, Kozhikode, Trivandrum, Rajkot, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bombay, Satara, Pune, Nasik and Nagpur.

(b) States of Orissa and Punjab have one divisional office each.

(c) to (e) The question of setting up of new divisional offices in the country is to be decided by Life Insurance Corporation on merits of each case.

Environmental Hazard Due to Mining of Bauxite Ore in Gandhamardan Hills

3807. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that there is strong local apprehension in Sambalpur district of Orissa regarding environmental hazards due to mining of bauxite ore in Gandhamardan hills where a famous temple is situated on a perennial stream;

(b) whether a master plan for environmental protection has been drawn up for this purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government are considering a proposal for creation of an Environmental Protection Committee in the locality with representatives of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd., the State Government and the local people to monitor and supervise implementation of this programme ?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Department of Environment of the Government of India is the competent authority to give environmental clearance and on the guidelines of that Department, BALCO has prepared a comprehensive Environmental Management Plan. This is under examination of the Department of Environment. The plan comprises study of the pre-mining ecosystem, including geological and geomorphological features of the deposit, flora and fauna, climatology, hydrographic system, habitation etc. besides impact due to mining operations. The Plan contains environmental protection measures, including prevention of pollution of existing streams and water resources, control of air pollution and blasting hazards and reclamation scheme with proper manpower and organisation for environmental management.

(d) Since all proposals for release of land (forest and non-forest) are first considered and cleared by the State Government and then examined by Department of Forest and Department of Environment, Government of India, the setting up of a local Environmental Protection Committee is not considered necessary.

Representation to Orissa on the Boards of Banks and Financial Institutions

3808. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is following the conscious policy of giving proper representation to different States particularly backward States in nominating