

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN):** Based on the information available with the Reserve Bank of India, the position is as follows:—

(a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The number of inoperative Deposit Accounts in India in Public Sector Banks (including the recently nationalised six banks), which have not been operated upon for ten years or more and the amount of deposits in them as at the end of December, 1976, 1977 and 1978 is furnished below:—

As on	No. of Accts. (in lacs)	Amount (Rs. in crores)
31-12-1976	10.87	11.81
31-12-1977	11.96	13.21
31-12-1978	13.64	14.63

(e) These amounts form part of deposits with banks and are utilised by the banks in the same manner as other deposits.

(d) and (f). No precise reasons are available for the increase in the number of inoperative accounts. However, some of the possible reasons may be as follows:

(i) Certain accounts are opened with the sole object of encashing crossed, instruments and thereafter are left inoperative;

(ii) Sometimes bank officials persuade the customers to keep their accounts open with some minimum balance;

(iii) Indifference on the part of account-holder, who does not want to operate the account; and

(iv) Death of account-holders who had not given any information about their accounts to their relatives and friends.

Banks do take initiative in contacting the account-holders or their nearest kin about such accounts. However, as far as the accounts in categories (i) to (iii) above are concerned, the onus for keeping the accounts operative or to claim the balance therein really rests with the account-holders themselves. As regards the amounts lying to the credit of deceased account-holders, necessary instructions have been issued to all public sector banks on the recommendations

of the Working Group on Customer Service to settle the claims on the basis of due local inquiry and adequate indemnity without insisting on legal representation etc. It is also proposed to amend the Banking Regulation Act to provide for nomination facilities to account-holders, which will result in expeditious payment of such balances to the nominees.

#### Reduction in Price of Cotton Cloth

\*609. (SHRI CHITTA MAHATA): Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps have so far been taken to reduce the price of cotton cloth during the last five months.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI):** There has been a marginal increase in the prices of cotton cloth during the last five months. The wholesale price index of cotton cloth has risen by four points during this period as compared to a rise by about twenty points in all manufactures. Among other factors, the rise has been due to increase of input costs and inadequacy of power supply. Controlled cloth schemes supplemented by the Janata sarees and dhoties scheme under the Handlooms together with the Cheap Cloth Scheme (under which 1000 million metres have been planned to be marketed at retail prices below Rs. 6.36 per metre) have been some steps to mitigate the impact of the price rise on the poorer sections of the population. In addition, National Cooperative Consumers Fe-

deration is also marketing some portion of the mills' production at lower prices enabled through reduced distribution costs.

### Availability of Precious Mineral Resources

\*1610. SHRI K. PRADHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding precious mineral resources available in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to tap them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Among the important precious and semi-precious mineral resources available in the country are Diamond, Sapphire, Emerald, Ruby, Garnet and Gold. National Mineral Development Corporation has estimated 6 lakhs carats of Diamond in Majhgawan in Panna and about 1.15 lakhs carats in Ramkheria in M.P. Diamond bearing host rocks has also been identified in other places in Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh and resources position is being assessed. Occurrences of other minerals include Sapphire and Ruby in J. and K. Emerald and Garnet in Rajasthan, and Ruby in Andhra Pradesh and Karanataka etc. The resource availability of these minerals is yet to be established. A number of Gold occurrences have been located in Karanataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Orissa.

(b) An integrated diamond exploration programme with experimental processing of the diamond bearing ores has been initiated by Geological Survey of India with the support of Mineral Exploration Corporation and National Mineral Development Corporation in the various parts of the country. The programme is expected to be completed in three years time. A Geological Survey of India exploration programme with the assistance of

Mineral Exploration Corporation in the Northern and Southern part of the Kolar Gold Schist belt is also in progress. Bharat Gold Mines Limited is also engaged in exploratory mining in the Southern part where occurrence of gold appears to be promising.

### Minerals Found in M.P.

\*611. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state the names of the minerals found in Madhya Pradesh and its approximate quantity and uses thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): According to the Geological Survey of India, following Minerals have been found in Madhya Pradesh:-

Minerals	Quantity of estimated reserves (in Million Tonnes)
Coal	17,787
Iron Ore	2,764
Manganese Ore	11,76
Lime Stone	5,964
Dolomite	1,568
Copper Ore	73,58
Bauxite	193,24
Phosphorite	8,92
China Clay	8.14
Fire Clay	101.37

Besides the above minerals, N.M.D.C. have estimated reserves of 7.15 lakhs carats of diamond in producing mines in Madhya Pradesh. Deposits of Tin mineral, Talc/Steatite/Soap-Stone, Flourite and minor occurrence of a number of other minerals which include pyrophyllite, glass