

lakhs have so far been sanctioned and the same amount has been released to the State. Though the State Government has requested for Rs. 200 lakhs in the current year, no loan assistance could be released so far as the State Government is yet to sanction the remaining schemes costing Rs. 103.94 lakhs.

#### **Opening of Bank Branches in Bihar**

1582. SHRITEJNARAYANSINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for opening some new branches of nationalised banks in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the places where these branches are likely to be opened?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September, 1990 issued guidelines in regard to their approach to future branch expansion to all Indian commercial banks including Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). They have not so far received consolidated requests from banks for opening branches under the Policy in respect of rural and semiurban areas. It will not be, therefore, possible to indicate the places in Bihar where new branches are likely to be opened.

#### **Mineral Based Industries in Bihar**

1583. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample scope to set up mineral based industries in Bihar;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard during the last three years; and

(c) the mineral based industries proposed to be set up in Bihar during the Eighth

Five Year Plan, and their locations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BASAVARAJ PATIL): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Protection of Environment in Hilly Ranges of Uttar Pradesh**

1584. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme for the conservation of forests and protection of environment in mountain ranges of the hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated for the purpose during 1990-91;

(d) the details of financial assistance if any, given to voluntary organisations for this purpose;

(e) whether Government have formulated any scheme to oversee the functioning of such organisations; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Government of India has issued guidelines to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to avoid clear-felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for silvicultural considerations it should be restricted to areas not exceeding 10 hectares. Felling of green trees in the hills above 1000m has already stopped in U.P. Besides this a number of schemes are being implemented for development of forests.

(c) Approved outlay for 1990-91 for hills in U.P. is Rs. 1119.60 (lakhs).