

(b) if so, the names of these districts and the number of branches of the Punjab National Bank functioning in each of these Districts;

(c) whether a number of proposals for opening of new branches of Punjab National Bank are also pending with the Reserve Bank of India for grant of licences in the State; and

(d) if so, the number of branches for which the licences have been sanctioned or are under sanction district-wise during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Punjab National Bank has lead responsibility in six districts of Himachal Pradesh. The number of branches of the bank in these districts as on date is given below :

Name of District	No. of Branches
1. Hamirpur	17
2. Kangra	24
3. Kinnaur	3
4. Kulu	8
5. Mandi	12
6. Ura	12

(c) and (d). The Punjab national Bank has reported that it has applied for opening branches in three centres in Himachal Pradesh and sanction for these centres is awaited. The question of allowing bank offices in various centres in Himachal Pradesh, would be considered by the RBI on the basis of the list of identified centres that may be forwarded by the State Government in accordance with the branch licensing policy. Details of licences sanctioned by RBI for opening branches of Punjab National Bank in Himachal Pradesh after 1.1.85 are given below :

Name of District	No. of Licences sanctioned
1. Hamirpur	7
2. Kulu	1
3. Una	4
4. Bilaspur	2
5. Simla	2

Amritsar as Tourist Centre

3785. SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI : Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Amritsar's importance as a tourist centre has been recognised; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to facilitate and attract the tourists to that city ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. Amritsar is amongst the major tourist centres of India.

(b) The promotion of tourist centres of India in the important tourist generating markets abroad is a continuous process and forms an integral part of the normal activities of the Department of Tourism. Amritsar figures prominently in our tourism brochures and publicity materials.

Survey for Mineral Wealth in Anantpur in A. P.

3787. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess the extent of underground minerals wealth in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to conduct survey of this area for (i) minerals and (ii) for underground water; and