

(a) whether the Himachal Gramin Bank has applied to the Reserve Bank of India for the sanction of licences for opening new branches at Chanaur, Sansarpur Terrace and Adhedian-hattian in Tehsil Dehra at District Kangra in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the dates on which the applications for the sanction of licences were received by the Reserve Bank of India and the dates on which licences have been sanctioned; and

(c) if licences have not been issued so far, the reasons for delay and the likely date by which the licences would be issued ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Himachal Gramin Bank has applied in June, 1984 for opening its branches at Chanaur, Sansarpur Terrace and Adhedian Hattian in District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh. These applications were kept pending by the RBI since branch expansion programme for 1982-85 of Kangra District was completed and new branch licensing policy for 1985-90 was being finalised. The new branch licensing policy for the period 1985-90 has been formulated by Reserve Bank of India. In accordance with this policy a bank office is to be opened for every 17,000 population in each block. The policy also envisages filling up of spatial gaps. RBI has reported that Chanaur, Sansarpur Terrace and Adhedian-Hattian centres fall in surplus blocks. RBI has, however, advised the Regional Rural Bank to refer the centres to the Group set up for the identification of centres, for opening bank offices under the branch licensing policy for 1985-90. The question of opening offices at these centres will be considered by RBI in the light of the branch licensing policy if they are included in the list of centres for opening bank offices, finalised and recommended by State Government.

**Hotel loan fund to finance two-star/
three-star hotels**

5392. SHRI R.M. BHOYE : Will

the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Hotel Loan Fund has been floated to finance new hotels under the two and three star categories; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TOURISM (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) There is no such fund separately for hotels. The public sector financial institutions provide term loan for hotels.

(b) Does not arise.

Trade with USSR

5393. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that our trade with Soviet Union is increasing every year;

(b) if so, the names of the articles imported from and exported to the USSR during 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86;

(d) the details regarding their value and the quantum of trade, details separately for public sector and private sectors; and

(d) the steps taken to improve trade with the USSR ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The items exported from India to the Soviet Union are Agricultural Products, Minerals and Ores, Chemicals and Allied Products, Leather and Leather Manufactures, Textile Goods, Engineering Goods, etc. The Indian imports from the Soviet Union consist of Machinery, Equipment & Spare parts. Crude Oil and Petroleum Products, Fertilizers, Chemicals and Pharmaceutical Products, Steel Products, Non-ferrous Metals, etc.

(c) Separate details are not being