

Relief work undertaken in Madhya Pradesh

5396. SHRI BHAGIRATH BHANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in spite of the Central aid being given, the M.P. State Government has decided to take up only those schemes under the relief works which have been included in the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). According to the information given by the Government of Madhya Pradesh, they have started non-Plan and other scarcity relief works also to provide employment to needy persons affected by the current drought, although priority has been given to Plan works wherever they exist in the affected areas. The question of assistance to the State Government towards relief expenditure is under consideration in consultation with them.

Alleged criticism of India for Iron Ore Policy towards Japan

5397. SHRI B. S. BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has severely criticised India for its iron ore policy towards Japan; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Statements to this effect on behalf of the Nippon Steel Corporation have come to Government's notice.

(b) There has been some shortfall in supplies of iron ore to Japan during the current year because of difficulties in transportation. However, efforts are being made to improve the position.

Branches of S.B.I. in rural areas of Orissa

5398. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches of State Bank of India in rural areas of Orissa;

(b) the number of new branches to be opened in the near future; and

(c) the factors taken in account for opening of new branches by the bank?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a). As at the end of July, 1974 the State Bank of India had 115 offices in Orissa, of which 59 were located at rural centres.

(b) Reserve Bank have reported that banks are currently engaged in formulating their three year rolling branch expansion plans for the period 1975-77. As at the end of July, 1974 the State Bank of India were, however, reported to have on hand 20 licences/allotments for opening branches at rural centres in Orissa.

(c) Main criteria adopted by banks for opening new branches relate to such aspects as the potential for mobilising savings and for lending to productive ventures, the availability of infrastructure facilities, the lead responsibility, existing bank branch network etc.

Tourists visiting Orissa

5399. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tourists who visited Orissa during the last two years;

(b) the number of sites visited by them;