

**Bank Branches Opened in Orissa**

2069. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of various commercial bank opened in Orissa and particularly in tribal districts;

(b) the number of such banks in other States;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to expand its branches in 1999-2000 and also in the Ninth Five year Plan; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) As in September 1999, 2210 branches of commercial banks were functioning in the State of Orissa. Out of these 534 branches are functioning in district having tribal population.

(b) Total number of branches in all other State as in September 1999 is 62723.

(c) and (d) In the Extant Branch Licensing Policy of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the decision for opening branches at a particular center has been left to the discretion of the banks themselves, subject to getting prior license from RBI. In view of this, no target has been fixed for branch expansion during 1999-2000, under the Ninth Five Year Plan.

**Waiver of Custom Duty on Domestic Steel Sector**

2070. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complete waiver of customs duty alongwith CVD has been extended to 18 mega power projects;

(b) if so, whether the same has deprived the domestic steel sector of demand of three million tonnes;

(c) whether the Steel Ministry has urged Government, as reported