

(b) Compensation has been paid according to the provisions of Land Acquisition Act, 1984 as amended by Visakhapatnam Steel Project (Acquisition of Land) Act, 1972.

(c) As on 30th April, 1985, an extent of 19881 acres of land has been acquired/ transferred, of which 11870 acres is private land which includes village sites also. The rest is Government land. As on 30th April 1985, an amount of Rs. 850.7 lakhs has been paid as compensation in respect of acquisition of private land and transfer of Government land.

**News-item captioned "Gold Hits New High in Bombay"**

687. SHRI S. B. RAMESH BABU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India, New Delhi on April 20, 1985 captioned "Gold Hits New High in Bombay";

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such an unprecedented rise in the gold prices; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to prevent further rise in the price of the yellow metal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Government has seen the news item captioned "Gold Hits New High in Bombay" in the New Delhi issue of the Times of India of April 21, 1985.

(a) and (c) Fluctuation in gold prices occur mainly play an important role. Gold is not an essential commodity and

the Government does not propose to control its price.

**Opening of regional rural bank**

688. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU.

SHRI M. MADDANNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of regional rural banks established in 1984, State-wise; and

(b) what is the number of such banks likely to be established in 1985, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The number of regional rural banks established in 1984 is indicated below State-wise:—

Name of the State	No. of Regional Rural Banks
Maharashtra . . . . .	2
Madhya Pradesh . . . . .	3
Gujarat . . . . .	4
Rajasthan . . . . .	4
Karnataka . . . . .	4
Bihar . . . . .	3
Uttar Pradesh . . . . .	1
Haryana . . . . .	1
West Bengal . . . . .	—
<b>TOTAL :</b>	<b>23</b>

(b) Setting up of regional rural banks is a continuous process. Government will take final decision on the proposals on merits after taking into account all relevant factors.