

(c) what price has been fixed for the purchase of each variety of jute during the current season !'

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (PROF. D.P. CHATTOPADHYAYA) : (a) and (b) Maintenance of Statutory minimum price for raw jute is the responsibility of the Jute Corporation of India. Jute Corporation of India has been provided with a credit limit of Rs. 24,00 crores for the present.

(c) Statutory minimum price fixed for Assam Bottom and comparable varieties in the up-country markets for 1975-76 jute season is Rs. 135 per quintal.

Appointments of S.C./S.T. persons in Nationalised Banks

450. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appointments made Statewise in the nationalised banks during the last three years ;

(b) whether reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates were made in making such appointments; and

(c) if so, what is the number of candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointed during the same period Statewise ?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The nationalised banks have reported that they have adopted Government instructions regarding reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for posts filled by direct recruitment. While recruitment to officers cadre is generally made on all-India basis, recruitment to Clerical and Subordinate Staff is made on regional basis. Statewise information is not maintained by all banks as in a large number of them recruitment is made through their regional offices covering areas in more than one State/ Union Territory.

Information regarding direct recruitment made by 14 nationalised banks to Officers

Clerical and Subordinate Staff during the years 1973, 1974 and 1975 and the number of SC/ST persons among them is given below :

Total No. recruited			
Year	Offrs.	Clks.	Sub. Staff
1973	1324	13058	3897
1974	902	9987	3556
1975	1418	10257	4081
No. of SC/ST recruited			
Year	Offrs.	Clks.	Sub. Staff
1973	83	1824	1010
1974	87	2069	1185
1975	215	2237	1272

Opening of a Gramin Bank In Cooch Behar Jalpaiguri

451. SHRI PRASENJIT BARMAN : Will the Minister of REVENUE AND BANKING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a 'gramin bank' in Cooch Behar/Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, what will be the location of the bank and by when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Relevant data in respect of Cooch-Bihar and Jalpaiguri districts of West Bengal have been called for. The suitability of Cooch Behar/Jalpaiguri for the location of a Regional Rural Bank will be considered along with other probable locations of such banks, by the Steering Committee on Regional Rural Banks having regard to the criteria that—

(i) the area is comparatively backward and its coverage by the commercial and cooperative banks is relatively poor; and

(ii) the area should have good potential for agricultural growth once the flow of credit is assured.