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(a) whether Government have decided to set up a large number of shoddy and worsted spinning units in the backward areas; and

(b) if so, the areas selected for the purpose and the total number of units to be set up under the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to allocate spindles to parties in backward districts of certain states which are in the cold belt and not sufficiently industrialised for production of woollen yarn/textiles. Accordingly, backward areas in the States of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab (in cooperative sector), Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, have been selected for the purpose. Under this scheme, uptil now 44 units with 600 shoddy spindles each in the shoddy sector and 15 units with 1200 worsted spindles each (except one Public Sector unit given 2400 spindles) in the worsted sector have been sanctioned for installation in economically backward districts of the above states on the recommendations of the concerned State Govts.

ग्रामों मे राष्ट्रीयकृत बैकी की शाखायें

*609. श्री ओम् प्रकास त्यागी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बलाने की क्रुपा करेगे कि :

(क) बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण के पञ्चात् विभिन्न राज्यों के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अब तक राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों की कितनी शाखायें खोली गई हैं; और

(ख) ग्रामीण क्षेत्र में शाखा खोले जाने के लिये क्या मापदंड है ?

†[RURAL BRANCHES OF NATIONALISED BANKS

*609. SHRI O. P. TYAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

....~

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks set up in the rural areas of various States so far since the nationalisation of banks; and

(b) the criteria fixed for setting up a branch in rural area ?]

वित्त मंत्री (श्री वाई० बो० चप्हाण) : (क)

विभिन्न राज्यों और संघीय राज्य क्षेत्रों के ग्रामीण केन्द्रों में राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों के कार्यालयों की संख्या में 1846 कार्यालयों की वृद्धि हुई अर्थात् जो 19-7-1969 (राष्ट्रीयकरण की तारीख) को 703थ वह बढ़कर सितम्बर, 1972 के अन्त में 2549 हो गयी।

(ख) देश के विभिन्न भागों में लीड बैक ढारा किये जाने वाले सर्वेक्षणों से जिन विकास केन्द्रों का पता चलता है; अधिकांश शाखाओं का चुनाव उन्हीं केन्द्रों में किया जाता है।

†[THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) The number of offices of nationalised banks at rural centres in various States and Union Territories increased by 1846 from 703 as on 19-7-1969 (the date of nationalisation) to 2549 as at the end of September, 1972.

(b) The selection of centres for opening branches is largely based on the identification of growth centres emerging from the lead bank surveys conducted in different parts of the country.]

INQUIRY AGAINST M/S. BALMER LAWRIE

*610. SHRI K. C. PANDA SHRI SUNDAR MANI PATEL :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AF-FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any inquiry has been instituted to look into the various complaints against M/s. Balmer Lawrie levelled by some Members of Parliament and others;