

However, the Bank of Baroda's rural branch at Kanakakad, District Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh has been converted into satellite office during the Financial Year 2011-12 which is providing banking facilities to the village Kanakakad. In addition, 745, 927, and 1506 branches have been opened in rural areas in Financial Years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively.

Ban on the export of Monazite

*97. DR. CHANDAN MITRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has imposed a ban on the export of Monazite from the country;
- (b) if so, the immediate steps taken by Government to check extraction and export of Monazite from the country by a large number of private companies; and
- (c) if not, the details of private companies involved in export of this mineral?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY): (a) No Sir. Export of Monazite has not been banned by the Government. Since Monazite is a prescribed substance, the export of Monazite is regulated under the provisions of Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the rules framed thereunder.

(b) Since Monazite is a 'Prescribed Substance', no Company or entity can extract, process, export or otherwise handle monazite without obtaining licence from the Department of Atomic Energy.

(c) For export of monazite, which is a prescribed substance, licence from the Department of Atomic Energy under the Atomic Energy Act is required. Indian Rare Earths Ltd. (IREL), a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy is the only entity which has been authorised for export of monazite.

Creation of National Investment Board

*98. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering a proposal to create a National Investment Board (NIB) with extra ordinary authority to supercede individual ministries and decide the fate of expensive infrastructure projects;