

port Association (IATA) Rules as follows:

	Normal Sales Agency Commission	Over-riding Commission
Passenger Sales	9%	3%
Cargo Sales	5%	2-1/2%

(b) Out of 97 GSAs appointed by Air India, two companies are Indian.

(c) All International carriers pay commission at the same rate to their GSAs, as per IATA Rules. However, the rate of normal Sales Agency commission is 5 per cent, as against 9 per cent prescribed in IATA Rules, in some areas of the world viz. wholly within Africa and Malaysian Peninsula. The rate of commission for domestic transportation varies from country to country.]

Profiteering and hoarding of essential commodities

160. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of promulgation of National Security Ordinance the profiteers, hoarders and smugglers are creating conditions of scarcity and high prices of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils etc.; and

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken to effectively tackle the problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY): (a) and (b) The National Security Ordinance is not directly applicable to cases for dealing with hoarders, profiteers etc., but the appropriate legislation for dealing with such cases is Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980, and the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The State Governments have been advised to enforce vigorously the provisions of these Acts and orders issued thereunder. In addition, they have been requested to activate and strengthen public distribution system. The prices and availability of essential commodities is being kept under constant watch in consultation with the State Governments and concerned Union Ministries.

Areas of operation of nationalised banks

161. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of each nationalised bank within the specified area of operation and outside as on 31st October, 1980; and

(b) whether there is any overlapping in some districts; if so, whether any rationalisation is being considered by Government?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT): (a) and (b) The nationalised banks do not have any specified area of operation. They can open branches anywhere subject to grant of licences by the Reserve Bank. However, because of historical reasons, some of the nationalised banks have larger concentration of their branch network in specific States/Regions. Statement at Annexure shows the available information regarding the Statewise distribution of the branches of the public sector banks as at the end of June, 1980: [See Appendix CXVI, Annexure No. 13] As part of their current branch licensing policy which covers the 3 year period 1979-81 and seeks to secure branch expansion in underbanked areas, the Reserve Bank have already endeavoured to achieve a certain degree of rationalisation in the future branch expansion of the banks. They have indicated that the primary responsibility of branch expansion will be of the Regional Rural Banks and the Lead Banks concerned. Reserve Bank have also indicated that banks having a regional character