

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VI-SHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) According to the latest available estimates, there were about 26,000 retail outlets in the rural areas of the country. State-wise figures are not readily available.

(b) Distribution of controlled cloth in rural areas was about 75% of the total distribution during April-June 1975. Remaining controlled cloth was distributed in urban areas.

#### Services of Foreign Airlines through Calcutta

404. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to induce foreign airlines to operate their services through Calcutta ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : Every effort is being made to persuade international airlines to operate their services through Calcutta. However a decision or initiative in this behalf lies with a foreign airline in its best commercial judgement. Government of India would welcome and encourage operation of scheduled air services by foreign carriers to/through Calcutta in accordance with their traffic entitlements and has taken a number of steps to make Calcutta airport to be the first modern international airport in India. There crores of rupees have been spent in providing a new terminal building, an operational block, and approach roads and in modernising radio navigational aids besides extending and strengthening runways and installation of versatile and sophisticated radar equipment at Calcutta airport. Apart from this, India Tourism Development Corporation has constructed a hotel at airport at a cost of Rs. 2.60 crores to augment facilities for tourists. It is hoped that foreign airlines would come forward and take the necessary initiative in this regard.

#### Branches of Foreign Banks in India

405. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of foreign banks in India since 1969 upto date with the amount of deposits in 1969 and in 1974 ;

(b) whether there is any ceiling on total balance of business of these banks ;

(c) whether there is any ceiling on profit of these banks and any ceiling on remittance of the profits earned ; and

(d) the total net profit of foreign banks in 1972 and 1973 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE AND BANKING (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The number of branches of foreign banks in India as at the end of each of the years 1969 to 1975 were as follows :

1969	.	.	.	.	131
1970	.	.	.	.	130
1971	.	.	.	.	130
1972	.	.	.	.	130
1973	.	.	.	.	130
1974	.	.	.	.	131
1975	.	.	.	.	131

The total deposits of the foreign banks, as on the last Friday of December, 1969 and 1974 were Rs. 478 crores and Rs. 788 crores.

(b) While no specific ceilings as to the volume of business which may be handled by the foreign banks have been prescribed, the working of the foreign banks is regulated by the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 and other concerned sta-