

the branches located in urban and metropolitan areas are more favourably placed than those located in the rural areas. The performance of each branch has to be examined in the context of the overall setting in which it is functioning. Unlike branches in urban or metropolitan areas, branches in rural areas require longer time to inculcate banking habit among the people residing in their command areas. A large number of the branches in the rural areas have been opened during the last three or four years.

The implementation of the Lead Bank Scheme, restructuring of the administrative set up of banks to provide for greater delegation of powers, simplification of forms and procedures, new schemes for extending finance to small borrowers, training of staff to reorient their attitudes etc. are some of the steps that have been taken to enable the rural bank offices to play an effective role in the economy of the rural areas.

Suspension of Pilots by Indian Airlines

1216. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYA-NARAYANA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Pilots of the Indian Airlines were shorn of their Command and some others were suspended in the massive crackdown by the management of the Indian Airlines on 21st June, 1973 in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR. KARAN SINGH): (a) and (b) From 21-6-1973 to 24-8-1973, 30 pilots of Indian Airlines were suspended/taken off command for the reasons indicated below:

No. of pilots involved	Cause of action	Action taken
1	Violation of Rule 24	Suspended
1	Landing incident	Taken off all flying duties.
2	Heavy Landing	Taken off all flying duties.
2	Unsatisfactory flying	Taken off command.
1	Accident to F-27 aircraft	Taken off command.
23	Below standard in assessment checks.	Taken off command and required to fly as co-pilots until further instructions.

1217. [Transferred to the Will August, 1973.]

Fraud in State Bank of India in Orissa

1218. SHRI GANESHI LAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fraud involving Rs. 60 lacs took place recently in State Bank of India in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Central Bureau of Investigation had conducted an investigation into an allegation that the Agent of the Athagarh Branch of the State Bank of India in Orissa, during the period February, 1969 to August, 1970, had entered into a criminal conspiracy with a few other persons and obtained pecuniary advantages for these persons and for himself. On the basis of the finding, on the investigation made by it, the Central Bureau of Investigation has filed 4 charge-sheets under section 120-B read with section 420 IPC and section 5(2) read with section 5(1)(b) and (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947