

However, in view of the sharp rise in price of coffee in the domestic market, the export of 'C' grades, BBBs' and Peaberry varieties of coffee has been temporarily suspended to improve their domestic availability.

Foreign Airlines Fares

*366. DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDEYA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Director General of Civil Aviation has advised the foreign airlines operating from India to follow the provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937 in regard to levy of fares;

(b) if so, the response of the foreign airlines thereto;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation against this directive;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Most of the foreign airlines have agreed to change fares, as approved by the D.G.C.A., as per provisions of the Aircraft Rules, 1937.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received from the following against the above directive:--

(i) Delhi Exporters' Association

(ii) Common Cause

(iii) Wg. Cdr. V.K. Kakar (Retd.) through P.H. Parekh & Co., Advocates, Supreme Court.

(e) Charging of fares at rates approved by the DGCA is a mandatory requirement under the Aircraft Rules. As such no violation can be allowed.

Bank Branches

*368. SHRI RAM KAPSE:
SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks closed/merged during the last six months, bank-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the employees working in the above bank branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The bank-wise list of the branches of nationalised banks closed/merged during the six months which ended on 31.3.94 is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) Closure/merger was resorted to

because all efforts to make them viable have failed and are unlikely to yield results.

branches are being productively redeployed in other activities such as internal audit and recovery.

(c) The employees working in these

STATEMENT

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>Number of Branches closed/ merged</i>
1.	Andhra Bank	1
2.	Bank of India	9
3.	Bank of Maharashtra	11
4.	Indian Overseas Bank	2
5.	Syndicate Ban	8
6.	United Bank of India	2
		33

Note:

(b) if so, the details, thereof;

Erstwhile New Bank of India (ENBI) was merged with Punjab National Bank (PNB) on 4.9.93. As a result of merger of New Bank of India, 46 branches were merged with other branches as reported by PNB, during the last six months. Of the above, 45 were branches of ENBI merged with PNB branches and 1 was a PNB branch merged with ENBI branch.

(c) the total quantity of tea exported so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the export of tea?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Target for export of tea during 1994-95 is 210 mn. kgs valued at Rs.1500 crores.

Export of Tea

*369. SHRICHINMAYANANDSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(c) Exports of tea during April-June, 1994 are estimated at 25.31 mn. valued at Rs. 147.88 crores.

(a) whether any target has been fixed for export of tea during the current year;

(d) Steps taken to boost exports of Indian tea include uninational promotional campaigns through Tea Board's offices