

[*Translation*]**Regional Rural Banks**

977. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing 196 branches of Regional Rural banks are inadequate;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India had set up a Committee in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Committee has submitted its reports to the Government; and

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) (a): The existing 14539 branches of 196 Regional Rural banks (RRBs) covering 397 out of 478 districts in the country can be considered as adequate to meet the Banking requirement of rural population.

(b) to (e); Reserve bank of India (RBI) has not set up any Committee to consider adequacy of RRBs. However, the question of restructuring of RRBs has been engaging the attention of Government Reserve bank of India.

[*English*]**Promotion of Tourism in Cooperative Sector**

978. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for promotion of tourism in

cooperative sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether any assistance is proposed to be provided to cooperative tourist societies to develop tourism;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): (a): No proposal has been received from any State Government.

(b) and (c): Does not arise.

(d): There is no scheme at present, to provide central assistance to cooperative tourist societies.

(e) and (f): Does not arise.

**Patents of Seeds and Saplings Under Dunkel Proposals**

979. DR. CHATTARAPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any suggestion from the Indian agricultural scientist regarding protection of the patent of seeds and saplings;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether it is fact that India is one of the leading countries of the World in regard to the production of seeds and saplings; and

(d) if so, the reasons for accepting the

Dunkel proposal according to which only imported seeds will be used for agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED):  
(a) to (d): A statement is attached.

The Standing policy planning Committee of ICAR, constituted a sub-committee in March 1990 to study various aspects of gene patenting, breeder's rights and collaboration with private and public sector industry. In its report submitted in 1991, the Committee recommended inter alia that keeping in view the importance of hybrid research and likely investment by the private sector in these areas it was desirable to consider granting plant breeder's rights in case of parental lines of hybrids.

India produced approximately 56-59 lakh quintals per annum of certified/quality seeds over the period 1988-89 to 1990-91. There is not provision in the Dunkel proposals which requires countries to import seeds. The Dunkel proposals are still being negotiated and has not been accepted by the Government.

#### **House Maids and Agricultural labour to Gulf Countries**

980. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of India Agricultural labour and Indian house-maids are working in Gulf countries;

(b) whether Government have imposed any ban on sending house-maids and agricultural labour to Gulf countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to enforce the ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Regulation of Functioning of Private Air Taxis**

981. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:  
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATH-  
RAO GUNDEWAR:  
SHRI TARA CHAND  
KHANDELWAL:  
SHRI G. DEVARRAYA NAIK:  
SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM:

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

(a) whether the Government regulate the functioning of the private air taxis in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the private air taxi operators are not allowed to publish their flying schedule;

(d) if so, the reasons for discrimination with private airlines operating in the country; and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be permitted to publish their flying schedules in accordance with the open sky policy?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Air Taxi operations are governed by guidelines issued under Aeronautical information Circular No. 24 of 1990 and instructions issued by the DGCA from time to time.

(c) Yes, Sir.