

Development (NABARD) has reported that Cooperative Banks (including Land Development Banks) and Regional Rural Banks in Kerala are not collecting compound interest from farmers in respect of agricultural loans. Position in respect of commercial banks is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available

Air Taxi Services

2725. DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for operating air taxis in the country;

(b) whether any last date has been fixed for submission of fresh applications for the purpose, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) (a) Twenty four applications for issue of No Objection Certificate for Air Taxi operator's permit are pending.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Regional Office of RBI

2727. SHRI SURAJBHANU SOLANKI. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Office of the Reserve Bank of India has been functioning at Bhopal, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has intimated that its Regional Office at Bhopal has been functioning since 1972. [English]

Overhead Expenditure of LIC

2728. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES. Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether the overhead expenditure of Life Insurance Corporation of India is more as compared to the expenditure of insurance companies of America and England;

(b) the steps taken to reduce the overhead expenditure of the Corporation; and

(c) the overhead expenditure incurred by Life Insurance Corporation during 1993-94 and the expenditure estimated for 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have reported that since a large number of insurance companies operate

in the U.S.A. and U.K. and since the accounting practices and legal requirements differ considerably, no rational comparison will be possible in the matter of overall expense ratio of the LIC vis-a-vis these companies.

(b) Through constant budgetary control and continuous administrative efforts, LIC have brought down the ratio of management expenses to total premium income from 25.52% in 1988-89 to 21.53% in 1993-94.

(c) Actual Total Management Expenditure Incurred

Year	Rupees in Crores
1993-94	2124.85
Estimated Total Management Expenditure Year	Rupees in Crores
1994-95	2506.23

[Translation]

Air Taxi Operators

2729. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

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

(a) the names of those air taxi operators who have sought permission to start air services during the last three years and the current year so far,

(b) the details of their fleets indicating the types of aircraft possessed by them and the areas where they propose to start air services;

(c) the names of those air taxi operators who have been granted permission in this regard;

(d) the names of the such operators who have started their air services; and

(e) the details of those air taxi operators who are likely to start their air services during 1994 and 1995?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD). (a) and (b). The names of air taxi operators who had sought permission to start scheduled air transport services along with details of their fleet are given at Statement-I. Details of the areas proposed/operated by them are given at Statement-II

(c) to (e). The following six among the existing Air Taxi Operators have been granted permission to operate scheduled Air Transport Services within the country.

1. M/s. East West Travel and Trade Links Ltd.