

entrepreneur has to take several effective steps for implementing project with foreign collaboration.

[English]

**World Board of Airports Association Council International Meeting**

3626. SHRI N.J.RATHVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Board of Airports Association Council International has given its consent to hold its general meeting of 1993 in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have given their consent for holding the meeting; and

(d) if so, the date fixed therefor and the estimated expenditure involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The third World Assembly and Conference of Airports Council International (ACI) was held in November, 1993 at New Delhi. The theme of the Conference was 'Airport Economics in the Turbulent 1990 and beyond'. Higher than world average growth in the Asia-Pacific Region, and consequent expansion programmes and airport financing were among the prominent issues discussed and debated at the Conference. Cost of organising the Conference was borne by ACI.

**Supply of High Quality Fibre to Textile Exporters**

3627. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need to ensure that garment exporters have access to high quality fabrics so as to achieve higher growth rate for Indian garment and textile exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Under the Duty Exemption Scheme of EXIM POLICY, duty free imports of fabrics against export of ready-made garment is allowed duty-free.

[Translation]

**RRBs in Bihar**

3628. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regional Rural Banks in Bihar and the locations thereof;

(b) the main objectives of these banks and how far these objectives have been achieved during the last two years;

(c) whether some of them are in deep financial crisis;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to improve the

performance of the said banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) There are twenty two Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operation in the State of Bihar having a network of 1892 branches as at the end of March, 1993 with headquarters located at Arrah, Motihari, Gaya, Purnea, Muzaffarpur, Monghyr, Dumka, Madhubani, Biharsharif, Chaibasa, Laheriasarai, Samastipur, Daltonganj, Ranchi, Gopalganj, Chapra, Siwan, Giridih, Hazaribagh, Patna, Bhagalpur and Begusarai.

(b) The main objectives of the RRBS are:

- (i) to take the banking services to the door steps of rural masses particularly in hitherto unbanked areas;
- (ii) to make available institutional credit to the weaker sections of the society;
- (iii) to mobilise rural savings and channelise them for supporting productive activities in the rural areas;
- (iv) to create supplementary channel for flow of credit from the Central money market to the rural areas through refinancing;
- (v) to generate employment opportunities in rural areas; and
- (vi) to bring down the cost of

purveying credit in rural areas;

As of March, 1993, as much as Rs. 88067 lakhs were mobilised by RRBs in 40.18 lakh accounts in Bihar. The credit support provided by these banks amounted to Rs. 49755 lakhs (outstanding) in 17.03 lakh accounts. They had disbursed loans of Rs. 3958.98 lakhs during the year ended March, 1993 to 93300 beneficiaries of the weaker sections. Thus over a period of time the RRBs have achieved significant growth in taking banking services to door steps of the rural poor providing them with institutional credit support and mopping up of hitherto untapped rural savings.

(c) Of the twenty two RRBs functioning in the State of Bihar as many as twenty one have incurred losses during the year ended March, 1993 amounting to Rs. 4621 lakhs and the accumulated losses of the RRBs in Bihar State stood at Rs. 11917 lakhs as at the end of March 1993.

(d) The reasons for incurring losses by RRBs are attributable to several factors like restriction on the choice of clientele, limited area of operation, low interest margins, mounting establishment costs particularly after implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal etc.

(e) The following steps have been taken to improve the performance of the RRBs:

- (i) with effect from September, 1992, RRBs have been allowed to finance non-target group borrowers to an extent not exceeding 40 per cent of their fresh loans;

- (ii) all sponsor banks have been instructed to pay a minimum of 13.5% interest on SLR term deposits and short term deposits of RRBs kept with them:
- (iii) with effect from April, 1993, all commercial banks have advised by Reserve Bank of India to revise upward the interest rate on current account balance maintained by RRBs from 6.5% to 7.5%.
- (iv) RRBs have been allowed to draw cent per cent refinance upto Rs.10 lakhs for their loans to small and tiny industrial units with outlay not exceeding Rs.15 lakhs.
- (v) Cent percent refinance is also available to the RRBs for financing of small road transport operators.

#### Import of Sub-Standard Palmolein Oil

3629.SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRI R. SURENDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether palmolein oil imported by the State Trading Corporation from Malaysia was lying for a long time at Madras port;

(b) if so, the quantity of oil imported and the reasons for its non clearance by the Customs authorities;

(c) whether the Central Food Technological Research Institute Mysore, had declared in the earlier certification that the said plamolein oil consignemt was unfit for human consumption;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the particulars of the firm, its credentials and the price of purchases;

(e) whether STC alongwith the representatives of the firm were pressuring CFTRI to reverse the earlier certification and getting the consignment cleared;

(f) if so, he details thereof and the present stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(g) the steps taken to prevent such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (d). A consignment of 6,000 tonnes of Palmolein contracted for import by STC at a price of US \$ 394 per tonne CIF Kandla (CIF Madras price US \$ 389 per tonne ) from one of its registered/empanalled suppliers M/s . Pasternak Baum(M) Sdn.Bhd., Kuala Lumpur which has supplied Edible Oil in the past also without default arrived at the port of Madras on 22nd October93 and was cleared by the Customs Authorities on 23 November,93 for whome consumption after being fully satisfied that the quality of the oil conformed to the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

(e) to (g). No, Sir. Though CFTRI,