

attempts were being made by banks in some cases to take over, from one another, account of large borrowers by offering concessional rates of interest, the Reserve Bank advised them in December, 1972 that they should not take credit limits of any party aggregating Rs. 25 lakhs or over by quoting rates of interest lower than those stipulated by its existing bankers. All the banks were again advised by the Reserve Bank on 13th January, 1973 that they should not take over from one another credit limits or term loans aggregating Rs. 25 lakhs or over without prior consultation with the banks which have presently granted such facilities and without prior clearance from the Reserve Bank. These instructions are operative for the present till the end of April, 1973

The Government are not aware of the specific allegation by the President of the All India Bank Employees Association or the context in which it was made. Banks generally ensure easy accessibility to credit for small borrowers on reasonable terms

Enjoying of Protection against Victimization by Employees of subsidiary banks of State Bank of India

687. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in terms of Section 47 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the employees and the officers of Subsidiary Banks of the State Bank of India are required to furnish information to the Inspector making inspection of a subsidiary Bank relating to the affairs of the Bank;

(b) whether such employees and officers who have assisted the Inspector in the course of inspection enjoy any protection under law against victimisation and if so, the nature of protection enjoyed; and

(c) if not, the remedy available to such employees/officers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YESHWANTRAO CHAVAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Assisting the Inspecting Officer by furnishing information as required under Section 47(2) of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 is a statutory duty, infringement of which attracts the punishment laid down in Section 47 (3). The question of victimisation for carrying out such a duty does not, therefore, arise. In any case normal procedure provided in the rules for seeking redress against grievances is available to all employees.

Trade Agreement with U.S.S.R. for Export

688. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN: SHRI P. M. MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether any agreement between India and U.S.S.R. for exports to Soviet Union has been signed in December, 1972; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the agreement?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). No agreement was signed between India and USSR in December, 1972. However, the Indo-Soviet Trade Protocol for 1973 was signed on November 25, 1972. This covers a total turnover of trade between the two countries during 1973 of the order of Rs. 411 crores

Indian exports to USSR during 1973 will comprise of engineering goods, consumer goods and other non-traditional items like ready-made garments, linoleum, garage equipment, electric motors, storage batteries, power cables, wire-ropes, detergent, cosmetics, dye-stuffs, hand tools, surgical instruments, vacuum flasks, cigarettes, etc. besides traditional commodities like deoiled cakes, cashew

kernels, tea, coffee, spices, tobacco, cotton textiles, jute manufacturers, handicrafts etc. Principal items of import into India from the USSR during 1973 will be plant and machinery, petroleum products, industrial raw materials such as asbestos, zinc, nickel, copper, palladium, fertilizers, newsprint, refractories etc. besides components, spares and raw materials for Soviet assisted projects.

Operational Profit Made by Indian Airlines during December, 1972

689 SHRI LALJI BHAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state whether Indian Airlines has made an operational profit of Rs 85 lakh in the month of December, 1972 out of the total revenue of Rs 68 crore during that month?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (DR KARAN SINGH) Indian Airlines made an operating profit of Rs 83.28 lakhs against a total revenue of Rs 671 crores during the month of December, 1972

Concessional Interest Rates on Advances made by Public Sector Banks

690. SHRI ANNASAHEB GOTKHINDE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of concessional interest rates on advances made by the public sector banks to low income groups who deserve financial assistance is being actually implemented;

(b) the guidelines for the identification of persons eligible for loans under the scheme and the conditions under which loans are to be given; and

(c) the estimated total quantum of credit expected for the year ending 30th June, 1973 under the scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-MATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A copy of the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India to the public sector banks in this connection is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No LT-4251/73]

(c) The implementation of the scheme has gathered momentum only recently. As such, a clear picture of the likely pattern of investment upto the 30th June, 1973 will emerge only in due course.

Decision regarding participation in International Fair at Djakarta from 16-6-1973 to 28-7-1973

691 SHRI M. M. JOSEPH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government have decided to participate in the International Fair to be held at Djakarta (Indonesia) from the 16th June to 28th July, 1973; and

(b) if so, the approximate amount to be spent in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A sum of Rs. Six lakhs has been tentatively proposed for the event in the Budget estimates for 1973-74