

[Sh. Rameshwar Thakur]

year. Previous year could be any day. It should be Diwali, it could be Dussehra or it could be any other day throughout the year. This had created problems and we wanted to have one accounting year for all assesses in India and one assessment year.

17.00 hrs.

That is why the amendment was brought about in 1987 and in consonance with that amendment, all these are now in the same category. Almost all cooperative institutions have accepted. But so far as the cooperative banks are concerned, there was a difficulty. This is sought to be removed. I would like to mention one thing that there will be no difficulty. There are some States where the cooperative laws have not been amended. A large number of States like Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rameswar Thakur. There is a statement to be made at 5 O'Clock by the Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism Shri Madhavrao Scindia. He will now be making the statement.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I will be completing in a few minutes.

MR. CHIRAMAN: The statement is at 5 O'Clock. You will continue later. After the Ministers' statement you may continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There will be some more points and some questions. Let the statement be made.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I will go by the Chair.

17.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Explosive Device Found on AI Flight 111 on 1.12.1991 at Delhi Airport

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MAADHAVRAO SCINDIA): On 1st. Dec, 1991 AI flight No.

iii Boeing-747 from Madras to New York via New Delhi and London arrived at New Delhi at 0705 hrs. The aircraft had 76 passengers and one infant along with 21 crew members on board from Madras. Out of these 12 passengers disembarked at New Delhi. 334 passengers including 4 infants and a fresh set of 22 crew members boarded the aircraft of New Delhi by about 0745 hrs. There were thus a total of 394 passengers, 5 infants and 22 members of the crew on the flight.

As per information available at present, while the catering carts were being positioned in the galley, a PVC bag was found. As the contents looked suspicious AI security person on duty was alerted who immediately removed the PVC bag from the aircraft to the high lift truck to be taken away from the site. The concerned authorities were informed and the bomb disposal squad of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security located at the Airport rushed to the spot immediately.

The device on examination was found to contain the following items:

1. A 9-volt battery
2. Pyro technic substance
3. A torch body
4. An electric circuit connected with wires
5. 100 ml. bottle containing a liquid which smelt like petrol
6. One shaving cream can containing a substance which smelt like LPG.

The device was neutralised by the explosive experts.

By about 0830 hrs. the passengers on board were safely disembarked. The aircraft was removed to a remote place.

The matter is under investigation by the police and intelligence agencies.

Meanwhile, Commissioner, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security has been asked to investigate the nature and extent of breach that may have taken place in the prescribed security procedures, and recommend what further measures are required to strengthen security.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (SHECHAR): Sir, the hon. Speaker has . . .
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: According to rules no question can be asked on this.

[English]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Let us complete. The hon. Speaker has suggested during the zero hour that he would see how a discussion could take place on this statement. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, no. Discussion means that you can raise a discussion by other form. No question would now be allowed.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I agree. Let there be a discussion. That is a very serious matter. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly give a notice so that the hon. Speaker will examine the notice and will decide about it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now Shri Rameswar Thakur to continue the reply.

BANKING REGULATION (AMENDMENT) BILL - (CONTD)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Sir, I was stating that many States and the Union Territories have already changed the accounting year in re-

spect of cooperative banks from July-June to April-March. There are States and Union Territories of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Bihar, Goa etc.

I would like to make one thing clear to hon. Member Shri Ram Naik and others who have raised the issue by way of an amendment and other means that there will be no difficulty. This is an enabling clause. We are getting requests from these States, who have changed their accounting year through the Reserve Bank of India, that this amendment must be allowed to come. They should have only one accounting year ending 31st March every year. Now the other States, which have not been able to change so far, will have no difficulty. It is not binding. In any case they are now preparing their accounts for the year ending 31st March for the purpose of Income-tax. That is they are preparing two sets of accounts - one for the year ending 31st March and the other for the year ending 30th June. They are free to do it. I am sure, it is advisable for them also to follow this and go to their State Assemblies who can pass the law and do it.

We could not have done it through the State Law as Justice Ghuman Mai Lodha mentioned, because it is the Central Law where the amendment is required which we are doing it here.

As regards some other suggestions made generally about the banks and also the banking structure in the country, naturally on such matters some discussions have been made in regard to nationalisation of banks and also the cooperative banks and rural banks. We are all aware that the banks have performed commendably well, their net work has gone to the rural areas after nationalisation. There were some only 8,268 branches in 1969 including 1,832 branches in the rural areas, which have now gone up to 59,986 including 35,049 rural branches and deposits also have increased from Rs.4,646 crores to Rs. 1,92, 541 crores. Similarly advances of Rs. 3,699 crores have