

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). Extension of branch network in underbanked rural areas so as to make banking facilities available to the people in villages and enlargement of the flow of credit to small borrowers like farmers, artisans, craftsmen, small industrialist, small retailers etc. have been the basic objectives pursued by the public sector banks in the post-nationalisation period. This has been, to a large extent, achieved by the banks through a sustained branch expansion programme to extend coverage of the rural areas by the banking system, evolution of specific schemes to suit small borrowers, simplification of forms and procedures, changes in the security norms, adoption of area approach for intensive coverage, setting up of specialist agencies like Multi-service-agencies and Agricultural Development Branches, adoption of necessary legislative and administrative measures for facilitating the flow of bank credit to agriculture, drawing up of credit plans for specific areas and effective liaison with the State Governments and participation in the area development programmes such as SFDA, MFALA, minor irrigation schemes etc., evolved by the Government agencies. To reach the poorest strata of the people, a special 'Differential Interest Rate Scheme' is also being implemented in 274 backward and SFDA/MFALA districts.

These measures have, over the last five years, resulted in a significant increase in the coverage of and also in the flow of credit to people in rural areas. However, having regard to the organisational and other constraints faced by the banks, it will also be necessary to set up local institutions like Farmers' Service Societies and rural bank credit to ryots through such institutional intermediaries so that the pace of coverage of rural areas gets quickened. The Government and the Reserve Bank of India

have been, from time to time, advising the banks of the measures considered necessary to increase the pace of their progress in this direction.

Additional incentives to Exporters

*563. **SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have framed any scheme to provide additional incentives to exporters, to relieve them of the prevailing constraints on industrial production; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). In the Import Policy for Registered Exporters for the year 1974-75, a specific provision has been introduced whereby exporters who export products on which import replenishment is less than 50 per cent of the FOB value, could seek additional import replenishment for an amount equal to 10 per cent of the normal import replenishment permissible against such export. Exporters have also been allowed to utilise a value upto 10 per cent of the value of their licences under the Import Policy for Registered Exporters for allocation of furnace oil required for export production.

Dhawan Committee Report

*564. **SHRI N. K. SANGHI:** Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dhawan Committee was appointed in 1973 to evaluate the performance of Avro aircraft;

(b) whether the production of Avro aircraft in the country and its supply to Government aviation agencies, like Indian Airlines and Indian Air Force has been seriously hamstrung in the absence of the findings of this Committee's report; and

(c) when the report of that Committee is likely to be received by Government?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) and (c). The one-man Avro Evaluation Committee consisting of Dr. S. Dhawan, appointed in April 1973, has not yet submitted its report. As the evaluation involves considerable amount of flight tests and analysis, it will take some time for the Committee to finalise its report. The Committee is doing its best to finalise the report as quickly as possible.

(b) Seven HS-748 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., Kanpur, for supply to Indian Airlines have encountered certain problems in meeting the specified performance standards. The Dhawan Committee is conducting evaluation trials and the delivery of these seven aircraft to Indian Airlines will be decided after the precise reasons are determined on the basis of these trials.

So far as Indian Air Force is concerned, deliveries against IAF orders are being made.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in Punjab

*565. **SHRI B. S. BHAURA:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of new branches proposed to be opened by the nationalised banks in Punjab during the Fifth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): For branch expansion programmes, commercial banks formulate three year rolling plans. Reserve Bank of India have reported that currently the bank are engaged in formulating their branch expansion plans for the three year period 1975-77. Reserve Bank have also reported that as at the end of September 1974, public sector

banks, including the fourteen nationalised banks, have 67 licences/allotments on hand for opening offices in Punjab.

Raids in Gujarat

*566. **SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Income-tax raids conducted on the business premises and residential places of individuals and firms in Ahmedabad and other cities of Gujarat during the months of September, October and November, 1974;

(b) the names of these individuals/firms and the amount seized and valuable articles confiscated during these raids; and

(c) whether the said individuals have been found guilty and if so, action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The names of 166 individuals/firms whose premises were searched by the Income-tax authorities in Gujarat during the months of September, October and November, 1974 and the value of the assets seized as result of these searches are given in a statement which is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-8857/74].

(c) Seized materials are under scrutiny. In respect of 4 cases orders u/s. 132(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 have been passed estimating the undisclosed income at a total figure of Rs. 19,02,739 and retaining the assets to the extent of Rs. 13,47,938. In regard to other cases where valuable assets have been seized, necessary action for passing orders u/s 132(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 has been initiated and the orders will be passed within 90 days of the seizure. Further action as may be called for under the