

Shri Hoda: May I know whether this Corporation is covering the total work that is there for re-insurance, or will some business be left for outside agencies?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: It is very difficult to say, because the Corporation has just started functioning, but it covers the reinsurance business in the fire, marine and general miscellaneous fields. As to what percentage of that total business is covered, I am not in a position to give the information.

Shri Biren Roy: May I know which insurance companies are the units of this reinsurance organisation, if it is a non-official body?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: The insurance companies, both Indian and non-Indian, carrying on general insurance business in India are units; they have subscribed to its capital.

Shri Biren Roy: May I know the names? I wanted the names. I want to know whether all these insurance companies in India are there or some.

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I do not have the information at present

State Bank of India

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*999 { Shrimati Renu Chakravartty:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of branches opened by the State Bank of India in rural areas in 1956-57 and 1957-58, so far;

(b) the number of those opened in West Bengal; and

(c) the total amount of credit advanced directly to agriculturists, State-wise?

The Deputy Minister of Finance (Shri B. E. Bhagat): (a) The numbers of branches of the State Bank of India opened in 1956-57 and so far in 1957-

58 are respectively 58 and 68 out of which 42 and 50 respectively are in places having a population of 30,000 or less.

(b) The numbers of State Bank branches opened in West Bengal in 1956-57 and so far in 1957-58 are respectively 3 and 5 out of which 1 and 2 respectively are in places having a population of 30,000 and less.

(c) It is not possible to give precise figures. The word "agriculturists" can be interpreted in more than one way. The State boundaries have changed. The collection of the figures asked for will involve rearrangement of a vast amount of statistics on different hypotheses and will take a disproportionate amount of time and labour.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: May I know how many more branches are waiting to be opened till March, 1958, in West Bengal?

Shri B. E. Bhagat: I do not have that information.

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: In view of the fact that the number of co-operative banks has increased, is it a fact that the total amount of credit which is made available to the agriculturists through these banks has fallen lower than what it was last year?

The Minister of Finance (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The question of making credit available to co-operative banks is not primarily the duty of the State Bank; it is the duty of the Reserve Bank; and the credit is made available by the Reserve Bank to the Co-operative Apex Societies through the medium of the States in some cases and directly in other cases. The State Bank does not come into the picture directly.

Shri Prabhat Kar: May I know if it was stipulated that the State Bank of India will open 100 branches per year and, if it has failed, why it has failed?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The stipulation is there and I would not

say that it has failed. I think this question of opening branches has gathered momentum of late and we have to wait till the period for which the total figure was fixed in order to judge whether it has failed or not.

Shri K. Ramanathan Chettiar: May I know whether the Government is satisfied with the progress of the State Bank of India in respect of opening branches in the rural areas and providing rural credit as per the recommendations of the All India Rural Credit Survey Committee?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid this is a very big question. So far as the first part of the question is concerned, I have answered it in reply to a question of the hon. Member Shri Prabhat Kar. In regard to the second part of the question, the Rural Credit Survey Committee's recommendations do not actually throw all the obligations on the State Bank. We have been considering various methods by which we can augment the amount of credit available to the rural sector and some steps have been taken in that regard through the Reserve Bank of India.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know whether it is a fact that the credit-worthy farmers, in other words the wealthy farmers, alone are entitled to credit facilities and the farmers, especially who are crop-sharers are not at all entitled to any loan from this credit; and, if so, whether the Government propose to bring any change in the rules to enable the poorer farmers to have all the facilities?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am afraid my hon. friend has not caught quite the nature of the original question. This matter refers to the State Bank. The question of providing credit facilities for a farmer who would not ordinarily, according to banking ideas, be credit-worthy is sought to be overcome by the co-operative institutions where there is a joint responsibility and it is to the co-operative institutions that we should look for more credit being made available

to the farmers on the basis of their personal guarantees rather than their being so much worth in property.

Shri N. R. Munisamy: What are the considerations that are taken into account before opening a branch in a particular locality; is it on the basis of population or business turnover? What is the real criterion?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The question of population, I think, should be secondary; the question of prospects of business and the service the branch would possibly render to the public would be the primary consideration.

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that in some cases branches could not be opened because of the non-availability of accommodation in those places? And, if so, will Government find out means to have their own accommodation.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I am not able to say with any definiteness that the position envisaged by my hon. friend is correct. It may be. But, if it is this, I think, we have to seek remedies and the remedy suggested by him might be one of them.

Shri M. R. Krishna: May I know how far it is correct that these credit facilities, either through the co-operative societies or directly by the State Bank, are only paper facilities according to Balwant Rai Mehta's report? If so, what remedies do Government propose to take?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have not yet seen any report which says that all credit facilities are paper facilities only. Until I know precisely what that report indicates and to whom it refers, I am not in a position to answer it.

बितीव का किला

*६१२. की कलवेयी : क्या किल्ल
और बीकानेर नकेषण मंत्री यह बताने की
कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बितीव