

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Friday, February 1, 1980/Magha 12,
1901 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Irregularities committed by Madura Bank under its Prize Deposits Scheme

*81. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of complaints have been received about irregularities committed by the Bank of Madura in conducting monthly draws in respect of their Rs. 500/- Prize Deposits scheme;

(b) if so, full details thereof and action taken against the Bank of Madura management;

(c) whether this Bank is also not permitting refund of these deposits to the depositors; if so the reasons; and

(d) whether Government propose to direct the above Bank to refund the deposits taken under the scheme as is permissible in case of fixed deposits taken by Banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. However, if the Hon'ble Member forwards any specific complaint the same will be looked into.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY. It is the practice that the question should be

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answered by the Minister. Then only a supplementary can arise from this side. So I am not asking any question about it and I am waiting for the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the answer of the Minister.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: As no information has been received by the Government, I am waiting for the information.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: If there are no complaints, I want to know whether the Minister has received any appreciation of the work of that Bank. Has he found out from the Bank?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: I did not say that there are no complaints. The complaints are sent to the Reserve Bank of India. I have asked for information from the Reserve Bank of India as to the nature of the complaints and that information has to come from the Reserve Bank of India. I will collect that information and place it on the Table of the House. Meanwhile, if the Member has any specific complaints, he may write to the Government and I will look into it.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the hon. Minister inform us since what time these draws have been in practice and how many deposits have not yet been paid even after the draw period is over?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: The scheme is this. People deposit for a period of ten years and during that period the prize draw is conducted. If the person is successful, then he gets the prize and his name is removed from the further prize draws. But within a period of ten years for which he has made the deposit, he cannot withdraw that amount.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 82. Shri Daga. Not here.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Since I also come from Rajasthan, may I be permitted to put this question?

MR. SPEAKER: No. Have you got the written authority from the hon. Member?

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, you cannot do that. Next question, Q. No. 83.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Question Numbers 83 and 89 may be taken up together as it is exactly the same.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Mr. Fernandes.

Distribution of Essential Commodities through Public Distribution System

*83. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to pursue the policy to distribute essential commodities to the people through the public distribution system.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND STEEL AND MINES AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c), Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The distribution of certain selected items of essential commodities through the public distribution system has become an important function of Administration today. The policy of the Government is to strengthen the public distribution system by enlarging the area and population coverage, streamline the arrangements for pro-

urement, bufferstocking and supplies of these essential commodities and to improve the monitoring of information and supervision of the system. Accordingly the States have been advised to ensure that every village or group of villages having a population of 2,000 and above is covered by a fair price shop. The headquarters of a village Panchayat, irrespective of the population, is to be covered by an independent fair price shop. In the remote and inaccessible areas, particularly the tribal belts, the population to be covered by a fair price shop of a village or a cluster of villages, could be 1,000. While the Food Corporation of India, the Public Sector Oil Corporations, Coal India Ltd., have been continuing their operations in procurement and distribution of cereals, kerosene, and soft-coke respectively, the State Trading Corporation was brought in a big way for distribution of imported edible oils through the fair price shops. The National Cooperative Consumers' Federation was entrusted the task of procurement and distribution of tea along with the controlled cloth which it had already been distributing. Arrangements were made with the Indian Soaps & Toiletry Makers' Association for supply of toilet soap through the public distribution system by various soap manufacturing concerns. The Khadi & Village Industries Commission has already started distribution of match-boxes under the system to some States. The arrangements made for procurement and distribution of various selected items of essential commodities are being constantly reviewed by the Department of Civil Supplies in consultation with the State Governments and the various Central agencies. The National Advisory Council set up at the National level has also met last November and reviewed the arrangements for distribution of various essential commodities. The State Governments have also been advised to keep the public distribution system under constant review by setting up State level Coordination Committees.

(c) Does not arise.