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Title: Regarding the alleged policy of discrimination being followed by banks in the matter of Credit Deposit Ratio in Eastern India.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (TAMLUK): Mr. Speaker, Sir, balanced economic growth is felt highly necessary for national integration. It is also necessary in order to combat the menace of terrorism and insurgency. But due to sheer negligence of the Government, there is a serious regional economic imbalance amongst different regions of the country, particularly, Eastern India is lagging behind economically.

Sir, for proper development of infrastructure and for social development, we need credit from banks. But from a Report published by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance it is evident that the credit on deposits in Eastern India is below 50 per cent, whereas in other regions of the country, namely the Western, Southern and Northern India the credit on deposits is more than 60 to 70 per cent and in some cases, it is even more than 80 per cent.

It has been argued that since there is no environment for investment in Eastern India and also because there are no proper infrastructural facilities like road connectivity etc., the position of credit on deposits is less. But funds are required for development of infrastructural facilities like road connectivity and things like that.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to make long speeches. I would not allow this.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : Sir, I would like to urge upon the Government to issue instructions to the banks so that they lend more credit to States like West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa so that proper infrastructure development could take place to combat regional imbalance .