

**International Copyright (Amendment) Order, 1996
and Annual Report and Review of working
Regional Engineering College, Durgapur,
for the year 1995-96, etc.**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :
On behalf of Shri Muhi Ram Saikia, I beg to lay on the
Table -

- (1) A copy of the International Copyright (Amendment) Order, 1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification S.O. 170 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 1997, under section 43 of the Copyright Act, 1957.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2237/97]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Malaviya Regional Engineering College, Jaipur, for the year 1995-96.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2238/97]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, for the year 1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur, for the year 1995-96.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT. 2239/97]

12.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Recommendation of the Governing Board of
Rashtriya Mahila Kosh**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) :
On behalf of Shri S.R. Bommai, I wish to make a

statement on the recommendation of the Governing Board of Rashtriya Mahila Kosh to permit the self-help group to determine the interest rate of lending to its members :—

The Rashtriya Mahila Kosh had been providing funds to the voluntary organisations at an interest rate of eight per cent for on-lending to the poor women. The NGOs, in turn, on-lend these funds to the ultimate borrowers at a rate of interest not exceeding 12 per cent.

The National Bank of Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) has been promoting credit through Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The rate of interest on the loans to the SHGs is at 12 per cent. The Self-Help Group is permitted to determine the rate of lending to the members of the groups on the basis of the decision of the members of the Group on the basis of the decision of the members of the Group. This allows the Self-Help Group to charge rates higher than 12 per cent. The difference between the rate of interest charged to the members and the rate at which the Self-Help Group borrows from the NGO remains with the Group for their common benefit. NABARD had indicated to RMK that if RMK has to be refinanced by NABARD, the terms of lending by RMK should conform to the terms of lending of the NABARD to the Self-Help Groups.

In order to harmonise the operations for SHGs with NABARD, the Governing Board of RMK recommended that :

- (i) RMK may lend its funds to the organisations/NGOs at eight percent;
- (ii) The organisations/NGOs may further lend to the SHGs/directly to beneficiaries at 12 per cent; and
- (iii) SHGs may be left free to decide the rate of interest to be charged from the ultimate members/borrowers. Such rate should not, however, exceed the lending rate of State Bank of India on its unsecured loans during the last financial year ending 31st March.

The Government have decided to accept these recommendations.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House through you to a very urgent matter. Today is 4th of August. Only ten days are left before the historic Midnight Session of 14th August which we are about to hold in this House. We are very happy that on that occasion we will be able to hear the famous speech by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru "Tryst with destiny". We know that Mahatma Gandhi was very sad on that day. He was in Calcutta and he was shedding tears. But we have been told that some appropriate speech of some previous occasion will also be played.

This matter was raised in the National Committee for the 50th Year of Indian Independence that a few lines of an inspiring speech of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose be played on that historic occasion.

I would urge upon the Government to include a brief speech of Netaji. We shall be doing ourselves an honour if we do so...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : The entire House is with Shrimati Krishna Bose ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Can I finish? Let me finish.

We know we have been very lucky. We had a galaxy of leaders during our Independence struggle.

But I would maintain that Gandhiji, Netaji and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were the three great leaders of our Independence Movement who were a class apart. So, we would like to hear their voices on that night. To leave one would be an unfortunate and glaring omission.

Thank you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think the whole House has already joined her by the acclamation. By acclamation, everybody has joined her. So, I do not think any addition is needed.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : Sir, through you, I would like to invite the attention of the Government and the whole House to the agitation taken up by the bank employees of the country. The Bank Officers' Associations and the bank employees' unions representing more than 13 lakhs of workmen in the country are undertaking a "Parliament March" today.

May I remind your honour that under your able leadership when you were the Labour Minister of India in 1993, an agreement was signed between the IBA and the Workers Union?

12.06 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The PBA which is representing the management of the banks in the country and the officers associations and the various unions had signed an agreement in 1993. This agreement was implemented as far as the Public Sector Banks were concerned. But this agreement, which is applicable to the Scheduled Commercial Banks of this country, is not being implemented. It is a gross violation on the part of the Government or on the side of the management. An agreement which was signed between the unions and the management in the presence of the Government is not being implemented even after four years! The year 1986 was decided as the effective period for pensionary benefits. But the people who retired in the last ten years

are waiting for their pensionary benefits. This is not being implemented. Today, it is only a token strike. They were already on strike in July. The entire workmen of the banks in the country have called a general strike on 28th and 29th of August. All these representations are falling into deaf years. It is very unfortunate that the Government is not taking a decision, the Government is reluctant to implement the decision taken in Tripartite Conferences. So, Sir, the entire financial sector of this country will come to a grinding halt if the situation is allowed to continue like this. There is a gross omission and negligence on the part of the Government.

So Sir, through you, I would request the Government to take a decision as early as possible to implement the settlement arrived at between the workmen of the banks and the IBA. The Private Sector Banks in the country may please be allowed, may please be permitted or please be granted the pensionary benefits as per the agreement.

There is also one more thing. The Government is now thinking of starting the Local Area Banks. So, the Gramin Banks, the Cooperative Banks, the Nationalised Banks, the Scheduled Commercial Banks and the entire banking industry is in a mood of agitation. It is quite unfortunate that the Government is keeping quiet on this issue. There is an agreement. It is not being implemented. So, I would request the Government to come forward to implement this agreement and redress the grievances of the bank employees in this country

[*Translation*]

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : I have also given notice on it today.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Defence Minister to a very important issue. He has many times stated that our armed forces are fully capable to teach a lesson to Pakistan. I have just returned from Jammu. From Kathua to Chhamb — a border line stretching upto 150 kms. people are fleeing, leaving behind their homes and hearths. Pakistan has been bombing these areas continuously for last six months. The Defence Minister has said that our armed forces are retaliating the Pakistani army but the truth is that that our mothers sustained injuries while cooking and as many as 40 cattle have been killed as a result thereof.

Scores of people have been injured. Particularly in the Paragwal area which is surrounded on three sides by the river and on the fourth side lies Pakistan, 20,000 population is living in this town at the mercy of Pakistani rangers. The sort of situation created there, people at border are compelled to leave their hearth and homes. I would like you to pay attention to it and give instructions to our armed forces to retaliate Pakistani firing. People are quite agitated as Indian army is not retaliating Pakistani firing. Several villages especially