

[Shri H.R. Bhardwaj]

to adopt in financing. If that is decided, then you can come to some sort of a conclusion that you finance the political parties. That can be considered if the Election Commission makes a recommendation. So, this issue also is under discussion as to what type of help can be given to political parties or candidates for contesting elections.

The number of seats is frozen up to 2000 A.D. The real delimitation would only be possible after the number of seats are adjusted according to the population of the country. At the moment, delimitation of a limited nature, namely, shifting of the Scheduled Caste seats and other limited delimitation is possible. I would welcome if this is discussed with the Government and decision is taken.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the reserved seats?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: About the reserved seat, I have submitted that this is possible within the limited delimitation. We can have now. But I am only submitting that this issue has to be discussed in a meeting with the political parties and if they want it and we want it and a decision is taken, I would be very happy to establish a Commission for this purpose.

With regard to Ladakh, I fully share the sentiments expressed by very senior parliamentarian, Shri Vyas and the people of Ladakh are foremost in our mind and they are vociferous. A very brave MP from Ladakh has been taking up their cause and I have on many occasions taken up these issues with the Election Commission. But I do not know what has happened. But this issue needs consideration, as a matter of fact. So, Sir, I have almost replied to the points raised by the hon. Members and even to the other observations and submissions made by them. I would only submit that so far as this measure is concerned, it is only limited in scope. I would request the hon. Members may kindly support it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the people Act, 1950, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we take up Clause-by-Clause consideration. The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Title were added to the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted,

CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: As the House is aware at about 11.30 hours today, a visitor calling himself Dhirender Pratap Sharma, son of Shri Suresh Chand Sharma, shouted slogan from the Visitor's Gallery. The Director, Security, took him into custody immediately and interrogated him. The visitor has made a statement and has expressed regret for his action. He has also begged pardon for the same.

I bring this to the notice of the House for such action as it may deem fit.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I beg to move:

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Dhirender Pratap Sharma, son of Shri Suresh Chand Sharma, who shouted slogan from the Visitors' Gallery at about 11.30 hours today and whom the Director, Security, took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of the House.

This House further resolves that in view of the regret expressed by him, he be let off with a stern warning on the rising of the House today."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"This House resolves that the person calling himself Dhirender Pratap Sharma, son of Shri Suresh Chand Sharma, who shouted slogan from the Visitors' Gallery at about 11.30 hours today and whom the Director, Security took into custody immediately, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of the House.

This House further resolves that in view of the regret expressed by him, he be let off with a stern warning on the rising of the House today."

The motion was adopted.

REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (AMENDMENT)
BILL.— *Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We go to the next item of the List of today's Business, that is, regarding Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Bill. Mr. Poojary to move the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 be taken into consideration."

Regional Rural Banks were first constituted by Government in October, 1975, under RRB Ordinance, 1975 which was later substituted by the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976. They were conceived mainly as low cost institutions staffed by persons residing within the jurisdiction of the area of operation, namely, one or two districts for each RRB to ensure that in their functioning the RRB observed the utmost economy. At present, there are 196 Regional Rural Banks covering 357 districts in 23 States in the country. These banks have a network of about 13,000 branches. The RRBs have mobilized deposits amounting to Rs. 1763 crores and given loans aggregating Rs. 1866 crores. The total staff of RRBs comprise of 24,067 officers, 22,178 clerks and 631 subordinate staff as on 31.12.1986.

RRB Act contains various provisions regarding incorporation, regulation and working of RRBs. The present Bill seeks to make amendments to the main Act in the light of the experience gained in the administration of this Act during the last over 10 years. While commending the Bill for the consideration of the House I shall confine myself to explain some of the more important provisions contained in the Bill.

At present, in terms of Section 6 (1) of RRB Act, the issued capital of each RRB shall be Rs. 25 lakhs. In view of the growth in business, it is desirable that issued capital of Rs. 25 lakhs which was fixed more than 10 years ago should be revised upwards, and fixed at Rs. one crore for RRB. This will enable the RRB to meet additional expenditure on account of the opening of branches in remote rural areas, servicing large numbers of borrowal accounts and training of staff etc. Simultaneously, the authorised capital is also being increased from Rs. one crore at present to Rs. 5 crores.

The Board of Directors of a RRB consists of a Chairman and not more than 8 directors to be nominated by the Central Government, the State Government and the Sponsor Bank. It has been the practice to nominate two non-officials on the Board of each RRB, one from quota of the Central