

should they be left unorganised? They should also be brought under the organised sector. We have come here to think of those women who have none to look after them and, mostly such women are engaged in the industrial sector. Hon. Members have expressed their views about them but we have to provide many facilities to women who are working in the rural areas. First of all they should be organised and a feeling should be inculcated in them that they too are significant and we want to give them a status equal to that of men. In this connection I would like to give certain suggestions.

First of all we should conduct a survey about the number of women working in the rural areas. After that we should think of their welfare in a well-planned manner. Firstly, we should provide them with jobs. We already have many schemes wherein certain reservation has been made for women but in the schemes like N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. etc. also, women should get reservation. Women working under these schemes should get all those facilities which are provided to industrial women workers. We have not thought of wages of the rural woman workers. So far as my experience goes, the wages given to women workers are less than those given to men in the rural areas. We shall have to bring about a change in this process. We shall have to think of ways and means to bring the wages given to women workers at par with given to male workers.

The second problem is of their food. In the rural areas, women and children all work in the fields and farms. In my area, paddy, maize and sugarcane are the main crops. In paddy and maize farming, mostly women are engaged because they are better workers than men. In the matter of crops, where the job requires a sitting posture, I think the womenfolk should be imparted some special training. In paddy sowing, women work more in lesser time than men. Therefore, with regard to paddy sowing arrangements should be made to provide special training to women so that they may be employed in this sector as specialised workers.

So far as the minimum wages are concerned though we talk of providing the same, yet unfortunately, in the rural areas; minimum wages are not being paid to them. In Bihar though it is said that four kgs of

foodgrain per day in—villages usually foodgrains are given as wages and not cash are given for the work yet the actual practice perhaps this is adhered to only at few places. We have enacted laws and we want to implement the 20 Point Programme also but not much progress has been made in their implementation. It is the responsibility of our Government to get it implemented. Government should ensure that the labourers are actually given minimum wages and women, in particular, get wages equal to those given to men.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue next time.

18.00 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

Educated Unemployed Benefited under Self-Employment Guarantee Scheme

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up Half-an-Hour discussion. Shri Jitendra Prasad.

[Translation]

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA (Shah-jahanpur) : Sir, I am raising this discussion on the matters arising out of the reply given by the Hon. Minister to the starred question No. 409 on the 12 April 1985. This question related to the subject of the self-employment Guarantee Scheme. I am grateful to the Hon. Speaker for allowing me to raise the half-an-hour discussion, so that there could be a detailed discussion on this Scheme. This Scheme should have benefited the youths of the entire country, but due to the short-comings in this Scheme, the youth have been deprived of the benefits. Sir, this Scheme was announced by the Late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, on 15th August, 1983 from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The aim of the Scheme at that time was to provide help to the unemployed youth to make them self-dependent so that with the

[Shri Jitendra Prasada]

help of our Government they could start some work and could make both ends meet. In addition, the aim of this Scheme was to generate employment opportunities. But I am sorry to say that the expectations raised by this Scheme have remained unfulfilled. There were many shortcomings in the implementation of this Scheme.

So far as the Scheme is concerned, there was no short coming in it, but at the time of implementation, many shortcomings were noticed. Our Hon. Minister of State for Finance, Shri Poojaryji, is present here. He is one of the hard working devoted Ministers. When the Hon. Minister got an opportunity to tour my constituency, he toured the districts ceaselessly without even drinking a glass of water. During his tour, he asked every beneficiary if any injustice or dishonesty was done to him, and this benefited the people very much. On the one side was Poojaryji and in the other side was the entire banking community. The Hon. Minister was threatened, an attempt was made on his life, he was gheraoed and he was threatened with a dagger. All these things have appeared in the Press. The Hon. Minister wanted to ensure justice to the poor and wanted to help them and wanted to translate the dream of Late Indira Gandhi into reality. That is why a planned attack was made on him.

Sir the Hon. Minister has said that this Scheme is being implemented throughout the country and it is not possible for him to tour all the places. We would have to find out a way to tour the maximum number of places, which is possible. The shortcomings of the Scheme should also be removed so that the benefits of the Scheme could reach the poor. It has been mentioned in the answer to the main question that a task force has been set up to select the people for giving loans. The Hon. Minister has said that the task force-comprises of District Employment officer, General Manager of the District Industries Centre, Project Manager of the District Industries Centre, one officer of the Lead Bank, two officers of the Bank and one officer of Small Scale Industries Service Institute, Government of India. This is your task force. The irregularity starts from this point. When beneficiaries are

selected and interviews are held for this purpose, the task force is unable to understand how the beneficiaries should be selected and how the applications should be sorted out from the large bunch of applications.

Secondly, when interview letters are issued, many applicants do not receive them. When the applicants make enquiries about the interview letters, they are told that interview letters have been issued to all the eligible applicants, perhaps you might not have received it. But what is the reality? The applicants to whom they want to sanction loans receive the interview letters and other do not receive them. This is how the bungling starts. Thereafter, the people are interviewed and after the interview, it becomes known that a list of applicants has been finalised and also a list of those who would be benefited and whose name would be recommended. Officers of the D. I. C. contact the applicants and tell them that they have done his work and he may now-contact the Bank. Again the bungling starts from this point. A share is decided at this point and corruption is encouraged. There is no check on it. It can not be inquired into and it can not be controlled. Efforts were made to have a check on such corruption, but there were many difficulties for which there was no solution.

The number of applications is very large. It is very difficult for the officers to know who is rich and who is poor, who belongs to the weaker section and who is more needy. No body can have an estimate about it by simply going through these applications and the officers cannot get any factual information from them. It would have been better if public participation had been allowed in it. The M. L. A. of the area the member of the Panchayat the corporator of the area should have been associated with this task, who could say who is poor and is eligible to get the benefit under the Scheme. The applicant would have got a certificate from him which could be a basis for taking a decision on the grant of loan. The officers do not have any information about the applicants as they are transferred after two or three years from a particular place and are therefore, unable to get full information about the applicants.

When selection has been done, many applicants who remain unsuccessful have no option but to make any appeal to the authorities or to find out the reason for their not having been selected. That way this impression could be removed from their mind, that they were not selected as they could not grease the pams of some persons. There should be some provision for making an appeal. The applicants should be told about the deficiency which was responsible for the rejection of their case. Summary dismissal is not proper and it gives rise to suspicion and a feeling is created in the public mind that people have been selected in a corrupt manner. You would have to take measures to remove this impression.

After the selection, the officials of the D.I.C. recommend their names to the Banks for grant of loans. But actually what happens is that if a loan is to be sanctioned to ten persons, a list of twenty persons is sent to the Bank. The Bank selects ten persons from that list. I do not want to go into the basis of selection by the bank. Actually an applicant, who pays more money under the table gets the loan while one who is unable to pay, does not get the loan. I want to know why a list of twenty persons is sent to the bank, when loan has to be sanctioned to only ten applicants. A list of only ten persons should be sent to the bank. If only eight persons turn up out of a list of ten persons, the names of two extra persons could be called for from the D.I.C. later on. But actually all the twenty persons turn up at the bank and the bank decides who should be given the loan and who should not be given the loan. If the D.I.C. recommends a loan amount of Rs. 15,000, the Bank Manager reduces the amount to Rs. 10,000 and if some settlement could be arrived at the applicant could get even more than Rs. 15000 as loan. In that case they say that the applicant's case is being referred back and it is again recommended. In this way, an effort has been made to sabotage the scheme.

Regarding the weaker section, I have already referred to the Minister's reply, in which it was said that loans were sanctioned to the weaker sections, but I would like to say that so far as banks are concerned, they do not have any scheme, nor have they any knowledge about any instinction. Banks

do not have any knowledge about the weaker sections also. Their yardstick is only one, which I have already referred to. It is a matter of great surprise that for the same scheme a different loan amount is being sanctioned. If an applicant is opening a pan shop and another applicant is also opening a pan shop and the size of their shops is also same, one applicant is sanctioned a loan of Rs. 10,000 while the other applicant is sanctioned Rs. 14,000. I fail to understand the basis for grant of different amounts of loan for the same scheme. The capital required for both the shops is the same. Such things came to our notice daily.

The Hon. Minister has said that no guarantor is required. I have got the newspaper cuttings with me. When this Scheme was announced, it was said at that time also that no guarantor would be required and the loan would be sanctioned without asking for any guarantee, but in ninety per cent cases, the question is asked whether the applicant has brought with him any guarantor or not and whether the applicant is furnishing any surety or not. This is the inevitable question which is asked in every case and our Government makes the announcement that no guarantor is required. It is very difficult to prove it, as guarantor is never asked for in writing. The bank officials say that loan would be sanctioned, if the guarantor is produced by the applicant, otherwise the applicant is free to go away. When we make complaints. The officials say that they had not asked for any guarantor. The Hon. Minister had visited my constituency and he asked all the persons about their grievances. At one or two places, the people made the complaint and he took the action also, but many people did not tell him about it due to hesitation. This is the problem at every place in the country.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Not only this, the sons of the persons who are running their own business are sanctioned loan by the bank and it is presumed that these persons have the capacity to repay the loan.

SHRI JITENDRA PRASADA : Nobody is going to see whether the loan amount is being utilised for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. A scheme is submitted and nobody checks whether the scheme is fake or real and whether the loan amount is going to

[Shri Jitendra Prasada]

become a bad debt or not. Nobody goes into all these things. As a result, a feeling has been created among the public that the loan amount which is being sanctioned would not have to be repaid. When such a feeling is created among the public, the people think that even if an amount of Rs. 5000 is spent to get a loan of Rs. 10,000, it is not a bad proposition, as an amount of Rs. 5,000 would still be received in the bargain. All this is happening because the utilisation of the loan is not checked and it is not checked whether the applicant is genuine or not, because the officials cannot get the factual information. It can not be checked until public participation is there.

The Hon. Minister has said that advisory committees have been set up by Government. When this question was first asked in the House, many Members had said at that time that such committees had not been formed and Hon. Speaker had also said that advisory committees had not been formed. But I would like to say that even if advisory committees are formed, the officials are not going to pay heed to our advice. Advisory committees are not going to solve the problem. Such a committee should be formed as could take action on a complaint of corruption or could recommend action so that there may be prompt action. If merely advice is given to the D.I.C. or the bank officials, they are not prepared to accept our advice. Even without advisory committees, we have been giving our advice and have been writing letters also and we make telephone calls and take all other action, but they are not prepared to pay any heed.

Advisory committees will not serve the purpose. You constitute such a committee or task force as has public participation and as could check the bunglings and see where such bunglings are taking place. Only then these irregularities can be checked.

In reply to the question you had said that you had issued instructions "to eradicate corruption." I would like to know what these instructions are? How will these help to check corruption. If corruption could be eradicated by instructions, it would be a very great achievement.

I want that while replying, the Hon.

Minister should clarify how our target of Rs. 401 crores in 1983-84 was lowered to Rs.65 crores only. I would like to ask whether our target of providing employment to 2.5 lakhs youths this year has been lowered. Shall we not provide employment to 2.5 lakh youths now? If we have lowered this target a bit, what are the reasons for that? My submission is that we should have raised this target to 5 lakhs from 2.5 lakhs.

You have provided subsidy to many states but they have not utilized that subsidy. You had allocated Rs. 3 crores to Haryana, out of which they utilized only Rs. 1.61 crores. The average loan advanced was Rs. 13,000. In this way, we can provide loans to more than 2.5 lakh people.

Sir, now-a-days, it is impossible to establish any business with a sum of Rs. 25,000. You should raise this amount. The amount provided by you should enable a young man to establish some business or industry through which he could earn as well as repay you loan. If you give him less amount, he will neither be able to establish any worthwhile business nor repay your money. It will be of no use to him. You should get it examined by the experts.

I am of the view that as long as there is no public participation in it, you will not be able to remove the lacunae in it. You constitute a committee of the M.Ps. and your officers should also be associated with it. That committee should chalk out a scheme which could be properly implemented so that the actual dream could come true and the youths could benefit.

I am quite hopeful that the objective and the spirit with which our late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had implemented this scheme will be kept up by our Hon. Minister by removing all the bottlenecks so as to show that he is committed to providing employment to the youth of the country. I hope the Hon. Minister will implement this programme vigorously.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) : I am very grateful to

the Hon. Member and also to the Hon. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to explain the scheme and also for the Hon. Member for giving us very constructive and also concrete suggestions so far as the improvement in the implementation of the programme is concerned.

It is true that with a laudable objective this scheme has been introduced by the late Prime Minister. Even though she is not here, this programme and the scheme has become very popular and the Hon. Member is correct in his statement that there is a lot of demand for the continuation of this programme and also he is correct in his statement that there are complaints and deficiencies in the implementation of the scheme. The Hon. Member has studied the problem. I wish to thank him for giving us very valuable suggestions. He has studied the deficiencies which are found at the time of identification by the Task Force and also after identifying the beneficiaries when it is forwarded to the banks for sanction. There also he found that the deficiencies correctly. He identified correctly the difficulties that are faced by the people. After the sanctioning when the actual disbursement is taking place what are the deficiencies and shortcomings, that also he has mentioned correctly. He goes one step further stating that at the time of monitoring what should be done, how monitoring should take place. He has gone one step further saying that if there is corruption what should be done. What is the deficiency in the system that also he has mentioned. He mentioned about the Committees which are entrusted with the duty of over-seeing the working of the scheme. How that could be done. He has clearly stated that also.

My submission to the Hon. Member and to the nation through this honourable House is this. When there are deficiencies in a system, we have to monitor it. We have to diagnose the whole thing; we have to identify the deficiencies. For that, the persons who are looking after it must go to the field; they must meet the people; they must meet the beneficiaries; they must find out as to what are the difficulties faced by the beneficiaries (*Interruptions*) Those persons who are looking after it should go there; even bank officials should go there; even Ministers should go there.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is not possible for the Minister.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : That should be the spirit. Now the Hon. Member was saying, for the Minister it will not be possible. I have made one thing very clear. It should be monitored not only by the Chief Executives of the Banks but also by the Reserve Bank of India. It should be monitored by the Administrative Ministry, that is, the Industry Ministry. So far as the banking sector is concerned we look after the implementation from the banking side. I toured the country. The Hon. Member made some reference to this. When we made some enquiries with these people, particularly those people who are frustrated because of the unemployment, we found that there was lot of resistance. Unfortunately that was coming from the employees saying that the Minister is coming and he is holding the trial and so on. To that extent this thing has gone. Some of the Hon. Members from the opposition are not realising certain things. I am not generalising. The persons who are not thinking about things, who are not realising the importance of these things, went to the union, went to the conference, they criticised this type of monitoring also. So you, may see to what extent they have gone. I am appealing to the Members from the opposition parties also to think, to realise how these things could be implemented and even if there is corruption what action we have to take.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : This is not true.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am not generalising.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : We always try to help the Minister from the opposition side. You cannot blame the opposition.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have not blamed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his reply. I will allow the Hon. Member to put his question.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have not made any allegation against any Hon.

[Shri Janardhana Poojary]

Member. I have got the record with me. If the Hon. Member goes through the paper clippings, he would know how many Opposition Members have attended the meeting and they criticised me in the meeting. There was an open criticism that had appeared in the newspapers. I am not blaming anybody, but because the Hon. Member made this point. Now, the point is : how have we to implement this? Now, it is not only for the Opposition Members or for the Members sitting on the Treasury benches, but it is for the entire nation to consider this. So far as the implementation is concerned, it requires dedication and commitment on the part of the employees, not only bank employees but even the task force. The Hon. Member stated the difficulties faced by the educated unemployed persons. When an unemployed person goes to get the application form from the banks—there are some blacksheep there—they are asking for money even to give one application form.

AN HON. MEMBER : Not some, but 75 per cent of them.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : How do you feel when you receive this type of complaint and that too from the educated unemployed? We have to do something for this. For that supervision is required. If there is commitment and if there is dedication on the part of the employees, these complaints would not come. Now, how does it happen? I am not defending them. I am not also putting blame on anybody. But what I say is that it should have happened. We have to think of doing something for this.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu one unemployed person had gone to the extent of murdering an employee. It is a fact that it has happened. Now, why has it happened? It is for the entire nation to think of it. Nobody has suggested that he should be murdered. But I think that it is due to frustration that has forced him to take that extreme step. To that extent, it should not happen and people should not do it. What the Hon. Member stated in this respect is correct. The Hon. Members on the Opposition say that they are bringing to the notice of the Government all these facts. So, it is for us to decide how we can implement the programme. That is why I am just appealing to the Hon. Member that

we have sincerely to make an attempt so that a situation should not be allowed to recur in future and for this cooperation should come from all the sections of the society.

Now, here for the suggestions made by the Hon. Members, definitely the scheme is going to be reviewed and the suggestions of the Hon. Members that have been made how will be taken into consideration. The officers from the administration and also from the Industry Ministry have come here to make note of the points made here. This programme has become very very popular. The Hon. Members have made it clear that they want more people to be covered under this scheme. I may submit that about 5 lakh people are to be covered under this scheme. Now that aspect is being considered.

As for other points raised by the Hon. Member, I had already stated in my reply when I was answering a Starred Question as to how many people have been sanctioned loans, what is the amount given, what is the subsidy given, why the amount has been scaled down, all these particulars have been given.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any machinery to evaluate the implementation of the scheme by the beneficiaries in their own area. If it is so, what is that machinery or body which would evaluate the true implementation of this programme?

Secondly, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any criterion to select such beneficiaries? Who had exceeded the service age limit? If not, is the Government thinking on these lines, and will a directive be given to the DICs so that they may select youth who have exceeded their service age limits?

Thirdly, I am grateful to the Hon. Minister that while replying on 12th April, he had categorically told the House that whenever irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries etc. came to his notice, he would definitely take action thereon. Of course, such irregularities might not have come to his notice, but they may be brought to the notice of the

concerned Bank authorities, collectors of the districts etc. May I know whether action will be taken at his level or at the Ministry's level against the Bank authorities or persons who had selected as beneficiaries persons who are men of means, monied persons, sons of multi-millionaires etc. ? If so, how is the Hon. Minister going to take action in this matter ?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri Sharad Dighe) : You can put only 1 or 2 questions; not so many.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Has the RBI given a directive to the commercial banks to give priority to the priority sector, and not to this scheme of self-employment—for which is the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had shown the light, so that the youth of this country, who are millions in number, could forge ahead ? May I know whether such directives were given by the RBI to the commercial banks ? If so, what is the remedy for it ? How is the Minister going to solve this problem ?

Next, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether there are directives from the RBI that the Managers or people who disburse the loans are responsible for their realization, and that unless they are realized, these officials would be taken to task ? Because of this, when we approach the Bank officials, they say : "We will pay to the beneficiaries who can repay the loans, and not to others."

Similarly, is it a fact that whenever a loan is sanctioned, and the beneficiary goes to the bank, the Manager ask him to locate his business in a particular place, say X or Y according to his convenience ? In fact, the beneficiary takes the loan for his benefit. He would start the business where he will get some profit, and be able to repay the loan. If view of this, how is it that the Bank Managers are directing the beneficiaries to start business in a particular place ? I know hundred-and-one such instances. I have written to the concerned Bank authorities pointing out that the officials direct the beneficiaries and tell them that unless they started the business in such and such areas, they will not be given the loans.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am asking the Hon. Minister some specific questions. The loans are to be given to the Youths in the age group of 18 to 35 years having no resources of their own. The second thing is that you have decided that there will be five persons to decide about the sanctioning of the loan. You have said that these five persons will be as under :

[English]

"There will be task force at DIC level consisting of the General Manager, DIC, who will be its Chairman, Credit Manager of the DIC, a representative each from the Lead Bank and concerned small industries."

[Translation]

There are three or four confusing things in this scheme. First of all, you give its definition.

[English]

What do you mean by business, service or industry ?

[Translation]

The first question is that you have not spelt out to whom you want to give loan ? This you have not indicated.

[English]

Whether he will be below the poverty line.

[Translation]

If the Panchayat has inquired and found out that he is below the poverty line, what is the need of inquiry into it further ? If the Youth is educated, do you need to verify if he is below the poverty line, when the village Panchayat has already agreed that he is below the poverty line ? You will have to identify such a vast number of families every year and after identifying each Block, you

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

will have to indicate that these people are below the poverty line, and when the Youth is educated, what right have you or this committee to challenge it ?

The second thing is that on what basis have these five persons to judge whether these people actually deserve to get loans, because one belongs to Punjab, the other belongs to Gujarat, another belongs to Bombay, I belong to Rajasthan. In the place to which I belong, I know, there are many rich people who have vast lands and your people can make a trip to that place and usurp the money. On whose assurance do you want to give loans ?

AN HON. MEMBER : On the assurance of the bank manager.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Your bank manager is subject to frequent transfers. Your inspector is not a resident of that area. To whom are you giving loans, what is the criterion for that ? You do not know. Do you give loans to those having good looks ? You are not aware of the criteria. You have written that :

[English]

"It would be ensured that the relevant affluent sections of the society do not corner the benefits from this scheme."

[Translation]

It will not help. Therefore, it is my request to you that you should associate the representations of the people of that area, the local M.P. the local M.L.A., with the committee while taking a decision about the loans.

AN HON. MEMBER : Panchayat should also be consulted.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I will not say Panchayat because he has been once declared eligible by the Panchayat.

[English]

If he is below the poverty line, he is to

be given loan; he should not be questioned at all because once you declare a person below the poverty line, then he must get loan; every year you have to identify people who are below the poverty line; and once you have declared them below the poverty line, then they are entitled to get benefits.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the next question which I would like to ask is : What is the method of indentifying the people of the districts whose population is below 10 lakhs ? I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that the committee of these five persons will not serve the purpose, you should also associate with them the local M.P. or M.L.A. or their local representative. He will be able to say whether the person is actually poor or not or whether he actually needs loan or not. This is my first question.

Sir, my second question is that you had decided to provide loans to 2 to 2.5 lakh people every year. This statement was given by the former Prime Minister of India on the occasion of 15th August, 1983. Now, August, 1985 is approaching. To how many people have you given loans and what was your target ?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Have all the banks achieved their targets ?

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : This is the 219th Report of the Public Accounts Committee for 1984-85; Seventh Lok Sabha. It has said in so many words :

"That the Committee are constrained to find that out of 79,445 cases recommended by DIC in 11 States and Union Territories during the year 1981-82, only 30,035 cases were given loans."

And in this way they have given the list. I do not want to go into the details and take time. Almost 30 per cent were given loans. The Committee recommended some, but they were refused.

[*Translation*]

I had recently asked a bank manager, who told me that they did not have money and that whereas I had said one thing the orders from above were different. I said, all right.

The question is that of giving loan. You want to provide loans to the educated unemployed Youth and so you should decide about the method of giving loans. Do you think anybody can set up an industry with Rs. 25,000 or Rs. 20,000? I challenge that nobody can set up an industry with much a meagre amount.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : How many persons have been given even Rs. 25,000 ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : This is also a big question. Even if you gave Rs. 20,000 or Rs. 25,000, a plot in our industrial area where he can set up an industry costs Rs. 70,000. Why are you cutting this joke by giving such a meagre amount for setting up an industry? You will give him Rs. 20,000 as loan and even for that he will have to take seven rounds. You go to Jadhpur and Jaipur and you will not find a single officer there. there is no one window service there. You add to the miseries of the unemployed. He is already unemployed and you increase his burden by adding to his expenditure.

I would like to know whether you will ponder over it namely whether he can setup an industry with rupees 20,000 only? You leave him with only one option, i.e. to open a tea shop in the village and indulge in bootlegging under its cover. A sum of Rs. 5,000 is sufficient to run a vegetable shop. You give Rs. 25,000 to educated matriculates. The Government officers are not concerned about it, because by God's grace their son will become a doctor or an engineer and the village boys will become only peons. There is an army of matriculates in the villages.

You give me the facts as to the criterion to judge whether a persons is living below the poverty line and he should be given loan? How long does it take to give him loan after a decision is taken to that effect?

Can he run any industry with Rs. 20,000

or Rs. 25,000? Will you please tell me the number of persons to whom you have given loans in 1985 and the amount given to each of them as also the total amount of loans distributed? Have you not taken any surety from them?

Why are the Members of this House not associated with that committee? Also tell me the number of applicants who have been refused loans.

[*English*]

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur) : Mr. Chairman, Mr. Daga has already asked the question I wanted to ask but I would ask only one or two questions.

When the scheme was formulated—I have got the Reserve Bank bulletin with me—the target fixed was 2.5 lakhs. I want to know whether this target has been fulfilled or not and what is the target of this year? That is one specific question, I want to put. And, in his reply to us show that the target for 1983-84 for Andhra Pradesh was 20,000 from the applications recommended by the DIC which were 25,401; and the number of applications sanctioned by the bank was only 14,781. That means, out of 25,000 only 14,000 and odd have been sanctioned, in the case of Andhra Pradesh. But if you look at all these figures you will see that out of 29,000 only 10,000 or only a fraction or 10 or 20 per cent have been sanctioned. So, I want to know whether the Government or the Minister will ask the bank managers why they have not fulfilled the target, and what action is the Minister going to take against those bank managers?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satyagopal Misra.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : There are two aspects of the problem. One is concerned with the scheme itself and the other is the implementation part. There are some defects in the scheme itself. One by one I am going to point them out and I would request the Hon. Minister whether he is going to accept them or not.

Firstly, the rate of interest is very high. It is meant for the backward classes and the

[Shri Satyagopal Misra]

rate of interest is 10 per cent, and for other classes it is 12 per cent. For an unemployed youth rate of interest should be lesser than this.

Another point is, to whom will the loans be given? What is the ceiling of his income? That is not mentioned in the scheme and in that way the rich people are getting more facilities. You know that the rich people have better lobbies and therefore as there is no ceiling for the income of the family, the rich people are getting the benefits. I want to know whether the Hon. Minister is going to put some ceiling on it or not.

My third point is that under the scheme a subsidy should be kept in the bank in the name of the beneficiary. This is not good. My suggestion is that the full amount should be released at a time to the beneficiary so that he can start the business or the industry.

Another very important point is about the role of the bank. Many Hon. Members have pointed out that banks are not functioning well. I know that there are some problems with the banks. In the year 1982-83 the Government had given some orders not to recruit some people even in the then existing posts. That order is still there. Therefore, the banks do not have sufficient hands but in the scheme you have said that four members will take the decision, one from the DIC, another from the lead bank and another from the Reserve Bank or other industries. Here the role of Lead Bank is very much important. I tell you that the whole problem is because Lead Banks are not functioning well. I can point out two or three cases. In the year 1984-85, the target for Andhra Pradesh was 15,100, the number of applications recommended to the banks by DICs was 24,295 and the number of applications sanctioned by banks was 9,550. For Maharashtra, the target was 25,000, the number of applications recommended to the banks by DICs was 22,335 and the number of cases sanctioned by the banks was only 6,839. Similarly, for Uttar Pradesh, which is the biggest State of our country, the target was 37,600 cases, the number of applications recommended to the banks by the DICs was 4,842 and the applications sanctioned by the banks were only 1,474. Just see the role

of the banks. The cases are sanctioned and given to the banks but the banks are taking time and time, thus delaying the whole matter. These figures are given by the Minister himself. So, the role of the Lead Banks should be scrutinised. There are some defects in the scheme itself. I would like to know from the Minister whether he is going to scrutinise the role of the Lead Banks or not.

Coming to the implementation part of the Scheme, there also some problem is there. When some money is sanctioned for a particular scheme, in my opinion, that money should be spent on that scheme only otherwise that money will go to the market and increase the inflation further. Therefore, some strong machinery should be there for monitoring the scheme. But the question is what type of machinery we want. It may be adventurous for the Hon. Minister to go here and there to check something but it is not possible for one person or for some persons to go to all the corners of the country and find out all the cases. Therefore, some local system should be developed. In my opinion Panchayats should be entrusted with this work. But the Panchayat system is very much defective. Where the elections of the Panchayats take place every three or four years, there the panchayats are active. In these places the Panchayats should be entrusted with the monitoring work, but in other places where the Panchayat system is not so much effective, there the MLAs and M.Ps should form committees and through those committees the whole system should be monitored. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he is going to accept my points or not.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : The Hon. Member, Shri Chintamani Jena has made a point with regard to the performance of the bank managers. He has stated that the monitoring and other things will not be possible. The last speaker also said that there is understaffing. This point I want to make very clear. As I stated earlier, there should be commitment. It is the duty of the bank managers to monitor the scheme also. It is not functioning there just to give money and keep quiet. It is their duty to see that money is properly utilised. In Andhra Pradesh there were two Managers. I do not name them.

When I went there the entire village, more than 25,000 people were there and were jumping and dancing not because the Minister came there, but because of the performance of the Manager.

This Manager used to go and monitor the performance of the villagers and used to guide them. He used to monitor the scheme also. And if something was required that could generate income, he used to pay for that also. This type of help resulted in one hundred per cent recovery. That is what is required of them today. The Staff there thinks that once they give the money, their duty is over and they can sleep over the matter. I want to make it very clear to the employees that it is their duty to monitor and it is their duty to receive money that has been given. In my district I told one manager that he has to monitor. He started monitoring and now the percentage of recovery is 98 per cent. It is the duty of the Bank employees to help these illiterate people who are not in a position to know the things. That should be their spirit.

An Hon. Member has stated that they are under-staffed. I am sorry it is not so. I have seen after paying surprise visits to more than 2,200 branches that the people there were playing cards during office hours. They used to go to office at 11 a.m. and come back home at 2.30 p.m. And then they asked for over-time saying that on the previous day they had worked upto 8 p.m. That was going on. If they worked properly between 10 and 5, I feel the staff is sufficient, but the only thing that is lacking is sense of dedication and commitment. If that is there there is no difficulty.

The Hon. Member, Shri Daga, has made very constructive suggestions. Other Hon. Members have also given good and constructive suggestions.

Coming to the scheme, I would say that it is meant for the people between the age group of 18 and 35. Clear instructions have been given that it is not meant for affluent class. While identifying, they should also find out whether the person is so poor that he cannot get resources from any other source—father, mother, brothers or sisters. He should be a person who has no source to get the resources. Such a person could be given this assistance.

An Hon. Member has made a suggestion that a ceiling should be put. This will be considered and looked into when the scheme is reviewed.

Now, a Hon. Member has asked whether security and surety is there and what is the rate of interest charged and whether it could be reduced. The Hon. Member knows that when we get deposit for a period beyond five years, the bank rate paid is 11 per cent. If other expenditures like bank employees salaries, furnitures and fixtures and rentals etc. are taken into account it comes to about thirteen to fourteen per cent. In such a situation you can imagine whether we can reduce it or not. But still we have provided that if it is a backward class or a backward area, the rate of interest is 10 per cent.

19.40 hrs.

There is no demand for surety or collateral security. The security that could be asked is the asset that is created out of the loan, which is Rs. 25,000. If the asset is created that will be the only security. But unfortunately you are correct that there are some complaints that surety is being asked for. I fully agree with him that with the Minister or with one agency it cannot be implemented. When the people complain and when I go and ask the aggrieved person whether the surety has been asked, he would say, 'Yes, security has been asked. We want the rich people to furnish the surety.' This is the complaint made by the aggrieved person. What has the Minister to do? He should come back and give the instructions. And we have to tell, 'If you do like this action will be taken'. And it is considered as trial, a public trial, the Minister is making a public trial. This is how it has been put. We have to see to it, and even when you are bringing to our notice a specific complaint, what we say is, 'we will take action'. But when we go outside, for example some poor man or somebody comes and says that this is the complaint, the Minister cannot say that he will not take action. But when he says that 'we are going to take action' and when it is said that the Minister is taking action, it is a public trial, what happened? I am not blaming anybody, but this is the reality. For that purpose we have to find out what is the machinery.

[Shri Janardhana Poojary]

Coming to how many people are given assistance—I will go step by step—it is 2,42,000 persons. The target is two-and-a-half lakhs people. We have to give to two-and-a-half lakhs of educated unemployed persons under this scheme. In 1983-84 we have been able to give to more than 2,42,000 people. The amount that has been sanctioned is Rs. 401 lakhs. You may ask what is the amount that has been disposed. It is Rs. 268.44 lakhs. How that could be reduced? When you are coming before the bank with one scheme—suppose a person starts a small industry or starts some technical workshop or something like that. First he has to acquire the land, then he has to construct the shed, then he must get the machinery. For all this time is required. So, when he acquires land some amount is given, for construction of the shed some amount is given and for getting the machinery some amount is given. Like that the amount is disposed of. You are correct in saying that delay is caused. When the application is received by the bank, either that has to be sanctioned or it should be rejected within 14 days. Unfortunately it is not done. I accept that fact, but not in all cases. There also implementation is required and we have to give the guidelines and we have to monitor, the higher authority should monitor and even the Reserve Bank also should monitor. Tomorrow when you are asking for the surety, there also action is to be taken and people cannot be exploited like this. Here also the delay should be avoided. At the same time, they have got the responsibility. That does not mean that when the Task Force recommends the application, they should immediately sanction. It is for the bank people also to see. For example in one locality ten applications are forwarded by the Task Force for starting of hospitals. Surely ten hospitals cannot be opened in one locality. So, in those cases the bank manager has to evaluate, and he can say, 'No, it is not viable'. He can send back a particular application. That evaluation, scrutiny and processing should be done by the Manager.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : That can be done at the Task Force level also. Why there are two layers ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : At the Task Force level if it is not done, that does not mean the Manager should not do

it. The Hon. Member is correct that if the task force properly processes the application after taking all factors into account and recommends sanctioning of loan, there is no difficulty at all. But in some cases, we have to give some margin. Therefore, the bank managers have to find out whether the project is viable, whether more industries could be put up there or more ventures could be put up there. It is because, ultimately, the bank manager will be held responsible for the recovery. So, it is his duty to find out whether the amount could be recovered, whether the project would be viable. These things come under productive purposes.

Now, the Hon. Member has mentioned about statistics. I don't know whether Shri Daga has referred to the report of the PAC relating to the year 1981-82. But I feel like that. I think, he has made a reference to the report of the PAC for the year 1981-82. But at that time, this report was not applicable to this scheme because this scheme has been announced by the late Prime Minister when she addressed the nation on the 15th of August, 1983. This scheme came into effect in the month of September, 1983.

It was for six months in the initial period and then it was extended, for six more months. When the target was not achieved, it has been extended beyond one year. As it was introduced in the month of September, 1983, the target could not be achieved within the financial year. So, it had been extended for six months initially.

In 1984-85, another two and a half lakh are to be identified and about Rs. 400 crores provided. Now, even if more money is required, it will be provided. There is no dearth of money so far as the bank sector is concerned. Now, the Hon. Member, Shri Misra ji said...

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : I said, why don't you entrust the monitoring aspect to the Panchayat wherever it is active. Where the Panchayat is not active, this can be entrusted to local MLA or MP.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The Task Force is there. Now the controversy arose during the Question Hour the

other day when I answered about the district advisory committees. Now, here, clear instructions have been given by the administrative Ministry, i.e. Ministry of Industry, that the overseeing function and the working of the scheme should be entrusted to the district advisory committees. The Hon. Member has made out a point which Prasadji also made that when there is corruption, what would be the power of the committee. Now, this advisory committee is headed by the District Collector and at some places by the Deputy Commissioner. Now, the instructions already exist for these district advisory committees even before the implementation of this programme or this scheme. These instructions and these committees are there since 1978. At the time of introducing this scheme, the Ministry of Industry has said that so far as the supervision and overseeing functioning of this scheme is concerned, this aspect is entrusted to the district advisory committees. These instructions have been given even in 1978. Subsequently also, the instructions were given. I will read out. This committee may consist of MPs, MLAs and other office-bearers.

The Hon. Member also made it clear last time that in some of the States these district advisory committees are not in existence. On 20th August, 1983, the Ministry of Industry wrote to the State Governments saying that the district advisory committees should be associated with overseeing and also supervising the implementation of the scheme.

I will tell you what is the latest position. On 3.9.84, Mr. N. D. Tiwary, the then Industry Minister, wrote to the Chief Ministers saying, so far as the overseeing and supervising of the scheme is concerned, that it should be entrusted to the district advisory committees and that a meeting of the district advisory committee should be held once in a month. On 5.9.84, the Ministry of Industry, Additional Secretary and Development Commissioner, wrote to the Chief Secretaries about it. But I am sorry to say that this has not been implemented by the most of the States. I can say that no State has implemented it. We are receiving telex messages from the States. If you permit me, I will tell you what they have stated. I am not blaming any State. In Karnataka, the DACs are there but MPs and MLAs are not included. In Andhra Pradesh, the DACs are there but MPs or MLAs are not there. In Haryana, MLAs are included but not MPs. As regards

Punjab, no MPs are available. Regarding Tamil Nadu, the telex message received is that action is being taken to nominate MPs and MLAs.

As you know, the setting up of these district advisory committees is in the hands of the State Governments. We have to raise our voice. Last time, the Hon. Member raised his voice. At the same time, you have to raise your voice outside also. When you go from here to your respective States, if you raise your voice and if you can make your State Governments to set up the district advisory committees with MPs and MLAs, there will be better implementation of the scheme. I do not say that this is not at all workable. On the contrary, as the Hon. Members have made out, the district advisory committees are going to be very effective. So far as the suggestion made by the Hon. Member and others are concerned, we will take them into consideration when it is reviewed.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Just a clarification. The Hon. Minister said that the monitoring of the scheme should be entrusted to the Bank manager and that the Bank manager is also entitled to raise his voice about the sanction of the scheme. So far as my knowledge goes, the task force monitors the scheme at the district level. But the banks are located in every corner of the district. How can one Bank manager of a particular Bank raise his voice in the task force and monitor the scheme? How is that possible?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The task force consists of the lead Bank manager and two other Bank managers of the district. It will not be a difficult thing to do. If they have got a will to implement the scheme, it is not at all difficult. There is no difficulty at all. It is not a difficult proposition. There must be a will to implement it. If there is a mind to do that, they can do it. That is why in the beginning itself I said that there should be dedication to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House now stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 hours on Monday, the 29th April, 1985.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 29, 1985/ Vaisakha 9, 1907 (Saka)