

interest and 16 per cent of the credit given under agricultural advances. If the hon. Member cannot understand this basic difference even after so many answers given on the floor of the House, I cannot help it.

What we have done is that one per cent of the total advances is given to all the eligible persons without taking into consideration the section of the society to which they belong and the vocations they follow. A man living in a rural area and earning below Rs. 2000/- a year or a man living in an urban area and earning not more than Rs. 3000/-, is entitled to this loan under differential rate of interest of 4 per cent. In this, the entire population of the country is covered.

16 per cent of the total credit will be meant for the agricultural sector and 40 per cent for the priority sectors. This is the target for the period ending March, 1985.

The hon. Member's problem was that the nationalisation was not for the poor but for someone's ego or someone's prestige. I would categorically say that Shrimati Promila Dandavate is unfair to her fair companion. She should not have made such an uncharitable remark. Let some figures be studied. In this country, before 1969 there was one bank for 65,000 people. Today we have got a bank for every 20,000 people. Though the population is going up, the figure for each bank has been brought down to 20,000. So, how can you say that it is catering to a few rich people?

Nationalisation was meant to help the poor people. Take the lending to the agricultural sector. At the time of nationalisation, only 1.4 per cent was lent to the agricultural sector. According to our plans, at the end of 1985 we want to devote 16 per cent of the lending to the agricultural sector. Is it for the rich or the poor?

Then I will refer to the Integrated Rural Development Programme. It was stated that no new schemes were introduced and that during the last three years nothing was done. During the Sixth Plan, in order to make the banking facilities reach the poor people, we have a scheme of providing help to 1.5 crores of families. The test or yardstick for eligibility to get benefit under the scheme is that the family must be below the poverty line. So, 1.5 crore of families are going to be covered at the end of five years.

In spite of all these things, if they cannot see light, we cannot help it.

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STATEMENT BY MEMBER CLARIFYING HIS REMARK MADE IN LOK SABHA ON 17TH AUGUST, 1981

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): On 17-8-81 on uncorrected debate, page 437, I said:

"I called a press conference and in the press conference the letter was released."

On checking I find it should be:

"I made a cyclostyled press hand out, giving my letter together with the reply from the Foreign Minister, although it was more or less an acknowledgement, and distributed the hand out to the press."

MR. SPEAKER: We will adjourn now for lunch till 2.25 p.m.

13.25hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

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*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*