

[श्री हरिकेश बहादुर]

किसानों को पर्याप्त मात्रा में उपलब्ध कराई तथा वितरण व्यवस्था में व्याप्त भ्रष्टाचार को समाप्त करने हेतु प्रभावशाली कदम उठाए जाएं जिससे किसानों को सही ढंग से आवश्यक मात्रा में डीजल प्राप्त हो सके।

(iv) AUTOMATION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BANK OF INDIA AT CALCUTTA.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH (Dum Dum): The Foreign Department Section of the State Bank of India is situated in Calcutta from its inception. This section deals with (a) cover operation of foreign currencies (b) reconciliation of the accounts sent by foreign banks with the accounts of S.B.I. branches (c) account of the stock of rupee travellers cheques and reconciliation of cashed cheques and (d) exchange of important documents regarding principles of trade and procedures etc. with foreign banks.

Due to negligence and inefficiency of the management and refusal to employ more hands to deal with the manifold increase in work, things have begun to pile-up under the headings (a), (b) and (c) since 1975. The Manager of the Department then proposed in mid 1979 to instal Data Processing and Modern Accounting Machine. Then in the beginning of 1980 the manager began to say that the cover operation would be decentralised to Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Dehi. This is the preliminary step towards shifting the entire operation to Bombay. Simultaneously, the manager began to air the view that agency arrangements would also be shifted to Bombay from Calcutta. All this in the name of RBI directions. Let it be pointed out here that certain portion of this department's work was also transferred to Bombay. There is tangible reason to approach that all operations would be centralised in Bombay. One can forget that the Headquarter of SBI, which was in Calcutta long ago been transferred to Bombay.

The pity of it is that there are only 168 persons handle all the huge amount of work under cover operation, reconciliation and agency arrangement viz: clerical—94; subordinate—10 and supervisory—64. Throughout all these years no additional hands were employed.

This relentless automation drive is a demon which eats up employment in a land of staggering unemployment. V. N. Dandekar in a report of the Government appointed Committee on automation opines—

“The number of jobs taken over by computers thus amounted to 27 per cent against which one had to set up 4.5 per cent new jobs created to operate the new equipment. There was a net reduction of 22.5 per cent in the number of job opportunities in the data processing sections of the offices concerned.”

I, therefore, strongly demand that all these attempts to shift foreign department of SBI from Calcutta to Bombay stopped. Enough has already been done to denigrate Calcutta and arrest the economy of not only West Bengal, but also of Bihar, Orissa, Assam, etc. of the eastern part of India in this way.

I further demand that further drive for automation in SBI be stopped as it aggravates the unemployment problems in India.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: (Jadavpur): Sir, the Finance Minister is here. He should take note of these very serious remarks. It is very very serious.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All matters raised here are serious.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We are trying to impress upon the Hon'ble Finance Minister since he is present.