

[Shri N. Selvaraju]

gation of the Central Government to see that the water due to Tamil Nadu is allowed to the Mettur Reservoir from Krishnaraju Sagar of Karnataka to save the withering crops of Tiruchi and Thanjavur delta which is the granary of Tamil Nadu. On behalf of Tamil Nadu peasants I demand immediate action from the Centre.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House adjourned for lunch to meet at 14.05 hrs.

1304 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

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

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATE BANK OF SIKKIM (ACQUISITION OF SHARES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION BILL)

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): On behalf of Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to provide, in the public interest, for the acquisition of certain shares of the State Bank of Sikkim for the purpose of better consolidation and extension of banking facilities in the State of Sikkim and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

As the hon. Members are aware, Sikkim became the twenty-second State of the Indian Union on April 26, 1975. Soon thereafter, the Government of India, in-keeping with the accent on rural and agricultural development as part of its strategy for the country's rapid economic progress, appointed a Study Team in August 1975 to consider the possible institutional

arrangements for strengthening the banking infrastructure in the State and other allied matters. This was the period when possibilities of establishing the institution of Regional Rural Banks were also under consideration. The Study Team was, therefore, specifically asked to consider *inter alia* the question of setting up a Regional Rural Bank in Sikkim or to suggest any other alternative arrangements which could comprehensively take care of the various needs of State in the matter of banking and for providing finance for its rural economy.

The State Bank of Sikkim had been earlier established in the State in September, 1968 by a Proclamation issued by the former Chogyal of Sikkim. The operations of the Bank were of a limited character. The Study Team appointed by the Government after considering the available banking facilities in the State and other related factors, submitted its report in February, 1976. Its principal recommendation was that in order to meet the banking needs of the State of Sikkim, it would be more appropriate to set up a single apex institution which could undertake agricultural and non-agricultural banking, as also handle government business. In this context, the Team recommended that in the first instance such an institution should take over the assets and liabilities of the existing State Bank of Sikkim. The recommendations of the Team were examined by the Government in consultation with State Government of Sikkim and Reserve Bank of India, and the present Bill seeks to provide the legal framework for action in this regard. The State Government of Sikkim has already provided for the establishment of the Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Limited under the Sikkim Cooperative Societies Act, 1978. The present Bill now provides, among other things, for the transfer to, and vesting of all the shares of the State Bank of Sikkim other than those held by the State Government of Sikkim and also the undertakings of the said Bank, in the first instance, in the Central Government. Thereafter, it seeks to authorise the Central Government to effect the

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

transfer of shares vested in it as also the undertakings of the State Bank of Sikkim in the State Government of Sikkim. The Bill further provides that the State Government of Sikkim will in turn transfer the undertakings of the State Bank of Sikkim to Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Limited.

The Bill also provides for the transfer of services of all the employees of the State Bank of Sikkim to the Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Ltd., and also for the payment of amounts to the shareholders whose shares are proposed to be acquired and for certain other incidental and consequential matters.

The conceived arrangements would be an amalgam of the State Cooperative Bank (providing short and medium term credit for seasonal agricultural operations and marketing of crops), the Central Cooperative Land Development Bank (providing long-term credit for financing capital investment expenditure in agriculture), the commercial bank (providing working capital and term finance for trade, commerce and industry) and the State Bank (transacting Government's business at centres where the Reserve Bank of India has no office). It will also have all the advantages of a Regional Rural Bank in the matter of income-tax relief maintenance of liquid assets at a lower level, low salary structure of the staff, access to the refinance facilities etc. without being restricted in the scope of its activities in rural and agricultural lendings. It will be controlled by the State Government and will be predominantly a bank with a local image and flavour, and also subject to the banking laws of the country and the control of the Reserve Bank of India.

The Government hopes that the enactment of the Bill would be yet another step forward in the development of banking infrastructure in the State of Sikkim which is conducive to the future needs of its economy and for the well-being of its people at all levels.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That the Bill to provide, in the certain shares of the State Bank of public interest, for the acquisition of Sikkim for the purpose of better consideration and extension of banking facilities in the State of Sikkim and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. While doing so, I have certain doubts in my mind about certain points of the Bill and I would like the Minister to clarify them.

Firstly, I would like to know whether this Bill would pave the way for breaking the economic tentacles of the feudals, moneylenders and exploiters in the rural areas of Sikkim. Secondly will longterm loan be available at a cheaper rate of interest to the small and marginal farmers and brigadiers who are tilling the land of the landlords for years together without any guarantee of their livelihood? It is to be noted that more than 70 per cent of the rural population in Sikkim lives below the poverty line. Thirdly, will better incentives, financial assistance and subsidies be provided to the poor artisans in the rural as well as urban areas? Fourthly, will the exploited rural population be freed from the cultches of the feudal lords and moneylenders? I want a clarification on these points and an assurance from the hon. Minister because feudalism has not yet been liquidated and no far-reaching land reforms have been carried out in Sikkim.

It is claimed through the Government media that the *per capita* Central assistance in Sikkim is the highest in the country. But the question is whether the fruits of this highest *per capita* assistance have reached the poor strata of the people. The answer is that it has not reached them. On the contrary, it has gone into the hands of the landlords, rich people, sycophants, deserters and power-greedy persons who have been controlling the Government in Sikkim.

[Shri Ananda Pathak]

Corruption is rampant at all levels, beginning from the higher levels. Officials and even Ministers have been making fortunes by indulging in the highest degree of corruption at the cost of the poor people of Sikkim. Last year, the Opposition leaders of the Sikkim Assembly made a representation to the President of India, praying for his intervention, to deal with the corrupt practices of some of the Ministers, which were widely published in the national press. I want to know whether the proposed Bill would ensure that the public money would not be allowed to be misused or misappropriated by anyone however high the position that he or she might be occupying.

Sir, the condition of the rural and urban poor, the educated unemployed youths and others, is deteriorating day by day. In the absence of rapid industrialisation, the number of unemployed is mounting up. I would like to know whether the proposed Sikkim State Co-operative Bank would come forward to encourage these youths and entrepreneurs to set up small-scale and medium industries in big way in Sikkim. I would also like to know whether this Bank would help to set up a network of consumer co-operatives for ensuring a better public distribution system in respect of all essential commodities.

Our memories go back to those days when the banks were nationalised, when big promises were made, which were welcomed by the people. But after nationalisation, all the expectations of the poor farmers, poor artisans, the urban poor and the small industrialists were belied, as the nationalised banks did not come to their rescue and help, when they needed them. On the contrary, those banks were helping the capitalists, feudal monopolists and richer sections of the people.

It is noticed that these banks are charging abnormally high interest from the poor farmers and thus squeezing the people. I want to know whether the nationa-

lised Sikkim State Co-operative Bank also would do the same and repeat the same thing in Sikkim.

Last but not the least, I would like to know whether this Bill, when it becomes an Act, would specifically, ensure the continuity of service and better service conditions of the employees transferred from the Sikkim Bank to the proposed Sikkim State Co-operative Bank. Sir, I do not find any specific provision in the Bill regarding the continuity of service and better service conditions.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that I want categorical assurance from the hon. Minister on the points raised by me.

SHRI P. M. SUBBA (Sikkim): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill.

This Sikkim Bill which is brought here today has a long history behind it. Previously in Sikkim there was the Traders' Bank which was called Jeth-mull Bojraj, which had cheated everybody from the service-holders to the public. Suppose I was a service holder at that time, I used to get my salary generally in the last week of the month because in the middle, suppose I took the money, he would charge interest. That is why there was a hue and cry about the banking system. So, the Government has brought another bank called the Sikkim Bank. But the Sikkim Bank has come into existence through the shareholders like the members of the Royal families. It was mainly the royal families who were shareholders. It was the time when it was proposed by the Government to convert this into a co-operative bank and now, this is the Bank Bill we are discussing here.

But we have to see that this Sikkim Bank which was established, has initiated the banking system and has done away with all the difficulties of the local people there. That is why we have to see that they gave a better service to the local people. They have started deposits and they have given the credits etc. as per the rules of the Sikkim Government. But the difficulty in Sikkim is that it is located in

the Himalayas. It is a sparsely populated place. There are hamlets here and there—a hamlet does not mean a 'helmet' which the scooter-drivers wear—but these are the hamlets where the villages are far off and it is bounded by the Himalayas where there is torrential rainfall and there is not a single road which is a straight road. Even to prepare a football ground we have to remove the earth. So, we have to imagine that Sikkim is really a wonderful land in comparison with Delhi and other places.

The hon. Minister has just now told us that this co-operative bank is registered under the Cooperative Societies Act or something like that. But I do not know whether hon'ble Minister knows that Co-operative Bank was already existing there. There was the Sikkim State Bank and the Jeth-mull Bojraj bank. There were three banks over here. I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister under what rule the Co-operative Society Bank is registered. If there is an amalgam of the Co-operative Society Bank and the present bank, have we taken into account the present services the State Bank and the persons working in the Co-operative Society Bank? I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister what will you do with the staff already working in the Co-operative Society Bank in Sikkim?

Our hon. Minister has just stated that the Commission gave its report in 1975. The Bill has come in 1982. The House would like to know the reason for having taken such a long time for preparing a single Bill for Sikkim. This Bill has come as per the Commission's Report of 1975. Much water has already flown in the Bay of Bengal.

At that time when the Commission was there in Sikkim, the State Bank of Sikkim was sound. But now, after so many years the State Bank of Sikkim is not so sound as has been stated in the Bill. The reason is obvious. One reason is the time factor. Another reason is that the ruling party is the majority party. Party people go to the Minister and the Minister is persuaded to let the party man have loan sanctioned. The Managing Director

becomes helpless. If the Managing Director does not give him the amount, the party man will go straightway to the Minister. The Minister asks the Managing Director to give him loan. But the person concerned who receives loan is actually not eligible for loan. Moreover, he has no landed property, no money background. He gets loan only because of the pressure of the Minister. But later on the money given on loan cannot be realised. That money will not come back to the bank again. Why? The reason is obvious—our Commission has clearly stated that the Managing Director should not be of the Sikkim Bank. I would like to know categorically who will be the Managing Director on proposed Bank.

The Managing Director acted as a jobless person, he acts because he knew that on merger the Managing Director will not be there. Actually, the Managing Director is a key person. He knows what is good and what is bad. He neglects his work. Money was sanctioned in the form of loan on account of the pressure of the Minister, even though he knew that the man who was being given loan was moneyless. No doubt the Board of Directors is there. But he will convince the Directors in such a way that that person gets loan. They did not know how to return the money.

In the Bill, the status of the managing director is clearly explained. But our hon. Minister has just explained to us in this august House that all the employees would be transferred to this bank. May I know whether the Managing Director is also included in this term or excluded therefrom? I would like to know this from the Minister categorically. The State Bank of Sikkim was sound in 1975. Now, it has become bankrupt. If you like to convert this bank into a cooperative bank, then you should take only the staff and the people or account-holders. Because, the Directors and the Managing Director have not taken so much interest in this bank.

When the Commission was there in 1975, there was a State Bank of Sikkim situated at Gangtok. But when the conversion had come into the picture very

[Shri P. M. Subba]

lately, all the Sikkimese people had withdrawn their deposits from the State Bank of Sikkim. They knew that the conversion was coming very soon. So, the State Bank of India has expanded its branches and now it has more than 10 branches throughout Sikkim where the important market places have already been captured by the State Bank of India. Now, you could understand what will be the position of the State Bank of Sikkim before the conversion of that bank into the cooperative bank. Really, the people have lost their faith in the State Bank of Sikkim, and they have already shifted to the State Bank of India. The State Bank of India has now monopolised their right from 1975. Most of the people are in favour of the State Bank of India. They know that it is the Central Government banking system and it is the only good bank. That is why everybody goes to the State Bank of India.

Our hon. Minister has just now stated that the proposed bank will be predominantly a bank with the local image and flavour. I would like to know in which category and in which metaphor, he has stated this. All the shareholders who were local people, are paid back their money. The local people have been taken away from the bank. So, how can you say that the local image is there? Moreover the payment is so low that it is only 5 1/2 per cent. I would request the hon. Minister that it should be increased because according to the permanent deposit system, the permanent deposit system, the percentage should be at least 10, 9 or 8. So, it would be better if those people who have initiated the banking system, here, are given at least 8 per cent. Then only, we have to decide about its conversion. We have to see their labour. They have invested the money at their own risk. So, taking all those things into consideration, if you give them the benefit at the rate of 8 per cent, I think, it will not be too high. Then only, we will do justice to them.

It is not clearly stated about the status of the employees and the officers of this bank. It is a single apex-banking institution in Sikkim. In such a case, I think,

the officers should be paid according to the Pillai Commission's Report and other employees, the clerks, etc., should be paid according to the bipartite settlement so that the advantages of conversion go to the employees.

Then, there are the people who have deposited their permanent and temporary deposits in the Bank. About those things, the Bill is silent. So, I would like to know what will be their fate after the conversion of this Bank into a Cooperative Bank. The conversion of this Bank is so much so that it is a cyclic order—from the shareholders it was taken by the Central Government the Central Government handed over to the State Government and the State Government has again handed over to the Cooperative Bank. I want to know why this cyclic order is being resorted to.

Again, whenever there is any law making, the powers are taken by the Central Government. There is a State Legislature in Sikkim. The local people know their problems. Everything is known to them. So, it will be better, if any such rules are to be framed, let it be done by the State Legislature.

Lastly, I support this Bill. At the very outset, it was stated that "it is in the public interest." So, as a lone member from Sikkim, I hope that the Central Government will do justice in regard to this Bill.

SHRI NGANGOM MOHENDRA
(Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as I go through the Statement of Objects and Reasons, I presume, the purpose of this new organisation is to combine local knowledge, rural bias, spirit of service and dedication to the rural population rather the rural agricultural folk which are characteristics of cooperative banks with adequacy of resources, management expertise and operational efficiency of the commercial banks. This is how I feel after going through the Statement of Objects and Reasons of this Bill.

As you know, Sikkim is an area which is economically backward. Everybody will agree with it. In this backward region, the big business generally set up branch factories, like for instance, match box factories and cigarette factories and so on, so that they can evade taxes levied elsewhere. The produce cannot be consumed entirely in that region alone. So, naturally, those products are sold outside Sikkim at a huge profit. Therefore, if this noble aim set forth in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is to be defeated by events that may follow suit, then, this Act, rather this Bill, will be infructuous to solve the problem of the economically backward region and I agree that with my friend on the other side when he said how exploitation has been carried on by the exploiting classes in that region.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Both are from the same State.

SHRI NGANGOM MOHENDRA: Therefore, I feel that the main objective of this Bill or Act should be to wipe out rural indebtedness and bridge the credit gap in the rural areas in particular.

Now I draw a parallel from my own State, Manipur, when that small State was under President's rule, a rural bank was set up in May, 1981, with the hope that it would really ramify. It was done with the great and noble motive of helping the rural people there but now, of course, unlike Sikkim, in Manipur there is always the law and order difficulty. So, on the plea of the worsening law and order situation in that State, only one Branch is opened there. The State Government has been obstructing the opening of Branches on the ground that they could not provide security for such newly opened banks. Of course, this will be absent in Sikkim. Even then, my apprehension is that this taking over of the undertakings of the State Bank of Sikkim and the establishment of the Sikkim State Cooperative Bank Ltd. or whatever name it is, at least helps the big business in that area. Unless proper safeguards are made, it will certainly defeat the purpose. In the name of encouraging industries, the Government should not encourage big companies to establish branches. At the same time, I would request the Hon. Minister to assure that in the name of encouraging in-

dustries, big companies are not encouraged to loot the profits by setting up branches of a variety of industries there.

But it is too early to say anything about this. Although the intention of the Act is clear, after going through the Statement of Objects and Reasons, we are more concerned with the outcome that may follow suit in due course.

So, I am sure the Hon. Minister will take a note of the fact of our genuine and sincere submission that if this is really a measure to help the economically backward people there in that border State—of course, it is a border State—then, it will be helpful to the agricultural poor. Otherwise, it will simply add fire to the discontent under which the agricultural poor are groaning in the present context of our country and of the world.

So, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to assure the House that all these considerations are taken into account and this Bill is adopted.

Even then I still reserve my comment on the future outcome except saying that we have apprehensions because every time noble measures are defeated by some other considerations resulting in untrue outcome of good intentions.

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार (पीलीभीत):
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस विधेयक का उद्देश्य बहुत अच्छा है और यह आवश्यक है, इसलिए मैं इस का समर्थन करता हूँ।

सिक्किम विधान सभा ने सिक्किम सहकारी सोसाइटी अधिनियम, 1978 पारित किया है और सिक्किम राज्य सहकारी बैंक लिमिटेड उस अधिनियम के अधीन पहले ही रजिस्ट्रीकृत हो चुका है। इस विधेयक के द्वारा एक शीर्षस्थ बैंक संस्था की स्थापना संभव हो सकेगी। आप जानते ही हैं कि देश के ग्रामीण अंचल और कृषि विकास, दोनों के लिए बैंकिंग सेवाओं का होना अति आवश्यक है। भारत में भी

[श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार]

सिक्किम से बचा हुआ भाग है, उसमें सभी स्थानों पर जिला सहकारी बैंक या प्रदेशीय सहकारी बैंक, राज्य सहकारी बैंक— इनकी स्थापना हो चुकी है। सिक्किम में भी एक सिक्किम स्टेट सहकारी बैंक की स्थापना का प्रस्ताव है, जो पूरे सिक्किम में अपनी शाखाएँ खोल कर विशेष रूप से ग्रामीण अंचल के निवासियों को आवश्यकताओं की पूर्ति कर सके। इसलिए इसमें दो राय नहीं हैं कि यह विधेयक जनहित में है और इससे सिक्किम के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के विकास में सुविधा होगी।

इस अवसर पर मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ। देश में बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया गया। यह हमने इस दृष्टि से बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण किया था कि जनसाधारण का अधिक विकास हो सके, देहातों में विशेष विकास हो सके। हमारे बैंकों की शाखाएँ घर-घर पहुंच सकें। छोटे स्थानों पर बैंकों की शाखाएँ पहुंचेंगी तब वहां के रहने वाले गरीब लोगों को विकास के लिए आर्थिक रूप से पैसा लेने में सुविधा होगी। उन्हें दूर-दूर दौड़ कर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा या अपना पैसा जमा करने के लिए या उद्योग धंधों के सम्बन्ध में ऋण लेने के लिए दूर नहीं जाना पड़ेगा। लेकिन बैंकों का जो राष्ट्रीयकरण हुआ, उससे उस उद्देश्य में सफलता नहीं मिली। आज भी हमारे ग्रामीण अंचल का कृषक, जो रुपया उसे ऋण के रूप में चाहिए, या सहायता के रूप में चाहिए, वह बैंकों से सुविधापूर्वक नहीं ले पाता है। इतनी कठिनाई लगा दी है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र का वासी बैंक तक आते-जाते और बैंक में जाते जाते परेशान हो जाता है। बैंकों का राष्ट्रीयकरण तो हुआ लेकिन उससे बड़े-बड़े पूंजीपतियों और हजारेदारों को फायदा पहुंचा। आम कृषक द्वारा जब तक चौथाई रुपयों

कर्मचारियों को हथेली पर नहीं रख दिया जाता है, तब तक उतका पैसा नहीं मिलता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि बहुत बोलने की इस विधेयक पर गुंजाइश नहीं है, लेकिन क्या जो राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंक हैं या जो हमारे सहकारी बैंक हैं उन ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों और ग्रामीण अंचलों में आम आदमी को, कृषक को वे सुविधाएं पहुंचाई हैं, जिनको कि आप देना चाहते हैं या जिन उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति के लिए आपने बैंक खोले थे। मैं समझता हूँ कि उस उद्देश्य की पूर्ति में हम बहुत असफल रहे हैं। मैंने पहले भी कहा था कि कुछ बैंक तो ऐसे हैं जो कि व्यक्ति विशेष को ही धन दिया करते हैं। आम आदमी के ऋण के आवेदन-पत्र पेंडिंग में डाले रखते हैं। पंजाब एण्ड सिंध बैंक का उदाहरण मैंने दिया था। आप सिक्किम में सहकारी बैंक की स्थापना के उद्देश्य से इस बिल को लाए हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि यह क अच्छा कार्य है। मैं इसका स्वागत करता हूँ परन्तु आपसे अनुरोध करता हूँ कि आप फिर से सर्वे कराइए इस बात का कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में बैंक से जो सुविधाएं आम आदमी को मिलनी चाहिए, वे क्यों नहीं मिली हैं। उनका दूर करने के लिए तुरंत उपाय कीजिए अन्यथा आप अपने उद्देश्य में असफल होंगे।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the Minister will reply.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali)
What about me?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You were not in your seat, I have called the Minister. I thought you had gone out. You should have been in your seat. I shall give a chance next time. We have got two more Bills. I shall give you a chance as also to Shri Vyas. Now, the Minister.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
RDHANA POOJARY): Mr. Deputy-

Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members for the valuable suggestions made. In fact I should be grateful to them for having taken keen interest in the debate.

This is a unique type of cooperative bank in this country. It performs all the functions of the nationalised banks; it performs the functions of the regional rural banks; it performs the duty of the nationalised bank as also the State Bank of India and, to a certain extent, it performs the function on behalf of the Reserve Bank of India also because it makes provisions for the acceptance of receipts and payments on behalf of Government. It meets the requirements of the agricultural sectors, non-agricultural sectors in the rural economy. Under these circumstances, I say it is a unique cooperative bank in the entire country. Hon. Members have raised certain points regarding meeting the needs of the rural sections of this area. Definitely, this is a backward area and a hilly region. Here, the State Bank of Sikkim had nine branches so far; the State Bank of India had five branches; the Central Bank of India had one branch; the United Commercial Bank had one branch. In all, 16 branches of the banking sector were functioning in this area. In addition to them, thirty-five multi purpose cooperative societies were also functioning. In fact, to a certain extent, I confess also and share the views of the hon. Members to the effect that only certain sectors or certain classes of the society were enjoying the benefits of the State Bank of Sikkim so far. In order to meet the requirements of the weaker sections, particularly, in the rural areas, this Bank, the Cooperative Bank, is going to come into existence soon after the passing of this Bill by both Houses of Parliament. Sir, I have been asked to mention under what Act this Cooperative Bank has come into existence. This Cooperative Bank was registered under the Sikkim State Cooperative Societies Act, 1978.

Sir, points have been raised about the continuity of the service of the employees and their pension and other benefits. Sir, under Clause 11, sub-clauses 1 to 6 full protection has been given regarding their continuity of service, pension and gratuity. Care has been taken to see that no injustice is caused to them.

Further, Sir, it has been brought to the notice of the Government—both inside Parliament and outside Parliament—that the quality of service in the banking sector has come down and weaker sections are not getting benefits which they are entitled to. Before nationalisation all the banks were in the private sector. The banks were nationalised in the year 1969 in order to fulfil certain social commitments. Before nationalisation the function of the banks was only of lending and borrowing. After nationalisation they have become an instrument of change in the development of the economy of the country. So, my submission would be that even though the banks were nationalised after 1969 the attitudes of the bankers were not nationalised. I share the views of the hon. Members in this respect but at the same time we cannot condemn that all people are like that. The assistance has flown from the banking sector to the weaker sections not only in the rural areas but also in the urban areas. I would like to assure the hon. Ministers that not only in Sikkim but also in other areas of the country the assistance from the banking sector to the weaker sections will be coming.

14.58 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*].

As the House is aware the hon. Finance Minister has taken a number of meetings with the Chief Executives of the banks and even the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India also have issued guidelines to the banks to see that the financial assistance is given to the weaker sections. The requirements of the weaker sections will be fully met under the priority sector, 20-point programme and also under Integrated Rural Development Programme. Under this programme (IRDP) in the first year of the Sixth Five Year Plan we have been able to give Rs. 148 crores; in the second year we have been able to give 207 crores and in the third year we have been able to give Rs. 480 crores. The Government is fully conscious of the fact that much more needs to be done in this matter but I will assure the hon. Members... I assure the august House that the requirements of the weaker sections will be fully met. Government is following a very conscious policy of meet-

[Shri Janardhan Poojary]

ing the requirements of this sector consisting of weaker sections. Certain doubts were expressed regarding the future functioning of the new bank in Sikkim. I would like to state that this Bank will predominantly be controlled by the State Governments; this Bank will have a local flavour; also it will be controlled by the Reserve Bank of India. In these circumstances, I don't think there will be any sort of deficiency in the functioning of the Bank. I feel that on some of these points I have given my assurance also particularly so far as the future commitment of the banking sector is concerned. I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

15 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide, in the public interest, for the acquisition of certain shares of the State Bank of Sikkim for the purpose of better consolidation and extension of banking facilities in the State of Sikkim and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we take up clause by clause. There are no amendments to Clauses 2 to 7.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8—(Payments of amounts)
Amendment made:

Page 4, lines 27 and 28,—

for "rupees eight lakhs five thousand one hundred and forty-five"

substitute—

"rupees eight lakhs twelve thousand two hundred and ninety-five" (1)

(SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: Clause 9 to 19. There are no amendments. I will put them to vote.

The question is:

"That clauses 9 to 19 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 9 to 19 were added to the Bill.

Clause 20.—(Dissolution of Sikkim Bank) Amendment made: ...

Page 8, line 37,—

for "shall stand repealed".

substitute— ...

"shall stand repealed; and the provisions of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, shall apply to such repeal as if the said Proclamation were a Central Act." (2)

10 of 1897

(SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The clause 20, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill. . .

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

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."
Shri Daga.

श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा (पाली) : सभापति महोदय, सिक्किम स्टेट बैंक सम्बन्धी इस बिल की मैं सरहाना करता हूँ। लेकिन मैं एक बात देख रहा हूँ कि आपको रिजर्व बैंक से 3 परसेंट पर लोन मिलता है, लेकिन उसके बाद ग्रामीणों और बोकरसैक्यन्स को कर्जा 15 परसेंट पर दिया जाता है। देश में जो कोओपरेटिव बैंक हैं, उनको काम करने की क्षमता और तरीके के कारण गरीब लोगों को बहुत निराशा होती है। हमारे नये वित्त उपमन्त्री ने कुछ काम किया है और बैंकों की हालत में कुछ सुधार हुआ है। आज बैंकों में बहुत ओवरटाइम एलाउंस दिया जाता है और मनेजमेंट पर बहुत खर्चा होता है। कोओपरेटिव बैंकों में जो डायरेक्टर बन जाते हैं, वे पैसे का दुरुपयोग करते हैं। इसकी रोक-थाम की जानी चाहिए।

हिन्दुस्तान में 58 करोड़ लोग गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं। उनके लिए 3 करोड़ रुपये का खर्चा रखा गया है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उद्योग वालों और गांव वालों को दिए जाने वाले कर्जे

की क्या रेशो होगी। शेरर होल्डर्स के लिए साढ़े पांच परसेंट व्याज रखा गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि उन्हें वहीं व्याज देना चाहिए, जो कि आप चांज करते हैं।

बैंको का राष्ट्रीयकरण हो गया है और उनकी शाखाएँ खुल रही हैं, लेकिन उनसे जिस लाभ की हम अपेक्षा करते थे, वह अभी तक नहीं मिला है। बैंक कर्मचारी ईमानदारी और निष्ठा के साथ गांवों के लोगों की सेवा नहीं करते हैं। यह देखी हुई बात है। राजस्थान में मारवाड़ ग्रामीण बैंक है आज हालत यह है कि जब तक कोई भी ग्रामीण बैंक का मनेजर रिश्वत या नजराना नहीं ले लेता है तब तक गरीब आदमी को लोन नहीं मिलता है। उसे पांच-सात बार चक्कर लगाने पड़ते हैं और कई फारमलेटीज पूरी करनी पड़ती हैं। इन फारमलेटीज को कम करना चाहिए ताकि गरीब आदमियों को बिना किसी तकलीफ के लोन मिल सके।

जैसा कि मैंने कहा है, कोओपरेटिव बैंको के डायरेक्टर मनेजमेंट पर बहुत ज्यादा खर्चा करते हैं, बैठकों में उनकी भागस में लड़ाई होती है। मैंने कई कोओपरेटिव बैंक देखे हैं; उनकी हालत खराब है। मुझे आशा है कि सरकार इन बैंकों के काम में सुधार करेगी, ताकि गरीबों को आसानी से लोन मिल सके। तभी बैंकों के राष्ट्रीयकरण का उद्देश्य पूरा हो सकता है।

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): Sir, I tully share the view expressed by my friend in so far as the sufferings of the weaker sections are concerned. So far as the rate of interest is concerned, I do not agree with my friend. It is better to clear the doubts

[Shri Janardhan Poojary]

in the minds of the people through this House. Out of every hundred rupees taken as deposit from the public, seven rupees will be going as cash reserve ratio and thirty-five rupees will be going as provision for statutory liquidity ratio. In all, forty-two rupees would be going to those accounts and out of the balance of fifty-eight rupees, 40 per cent will go to priority sectors. I repeat that 40 per cent of Rs. 58 will go to priority sector, and 40 per cent of this 40 per cent will go to the agricultural sector. That will amount to 16 per cent of the total advances and 50 per cent of the 16 per cent will go as direct advances to the weaker section. As you are aware, 1 per cent of the total advances will go to weaker section under Differential Rate of Interest Scheme at the rate of 4 per cent, and the priority sector, and the concessional rate will vary from 10.25 per cent to 12 per cent and so on. Therefore, it will not be correct to say that we are getting the amount from the Reserve Bank of India at 3 per cent and are lending the same at 13 per cent or 15 per cent to the weaker section.

Then, I fully agree that there are complaints from various parts of the country that the people are harassed by the persons working in the banks. The Government has become very firm, so far as discipline in the banking sector is concerned. We are determined to see that the banking administration is toned up. During the last six months ending June 1982, we have been able to save—I do not say that it is a saving—in the country an amount to the tune of Rs. 14 crores in the form of overtime in comparison to the figures for 1981.

So far as assistance to the weaker section is concerned, I have already mentioned that the requirements of the weaker section will be fully met.

I think, I have made all the rest of the points quite clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill was amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.13 hrs.

NATIONAL WATERWAY (ALLAHABAD-HALDIA STRETCH OF THE GANGA-BHAGIRATHI-HOOGHLY RIVER) BILL

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up the next item, namely, National Waterway (Allahabad-Haldia Stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River) Bill.

नौवहन और परिवहन मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केलरी): सभापति महोदय, भारतीय नौवहन एवं नौचालन के इतिहास में यह पहला अवसर है जब किसी जलमार्ग को राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग घोषित करने के लिए संसद में एक विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया जा रहा है। इस दिशा में फ़िलहाल इलाहाबाद से हल्दिया तक गंगा नदी के भाग को राष्ट्रीय जलमार्ग घोषित कर पहल की जा रही है।

ऊर्जा की बचत करने और भूमि पर विभिन्न प्रकार के यातायात के साधनों की कमी को पूरा करने की आवश्यकता के संदर्भ में सरकार यह आवश्यक समझती है कि जिन स्थानों में अन्तर्देशीय जल-परिवहन का विकास करने की संभावना है वहां परिवहन के इस प्रकार के साधन का तेज़ी से विकास किया जाए। यह विकास कार्य एक अन्य दृष्टि से भी महत्वपूर्ण है, हम परिवहन के अन्य साधनों की अपेक्षा अन्तर्देशीय जल-परिवहन का विकास करने में जितनी पूंजी लगाते हैं उससे लोगों को परिवहन के अन्य साधनों की अपेक्षा कहीं अधिक रोज़गार मिलता है और इससे प्रायः वे लोग लाभ लाभान्वित होते हैं जो हमारे समाज के कमजोर वर्ग के होते हैं। सरकार यह कोशिश करेगी कि आधारभूत और अन्य सुविधाओं की व्यवस्था कर जल मार्ग को विनियमित और विकसित किया जाए जिससे नौवहन और नौचालन के कार्य