

reference to the following matter of urgent public importance

About two years ago the Railways announced the running of a fast train called "Sabarmati Express" on the Gunna-Maksi line. During the last 2 to 3 years, several fast passenger and goods trains have been diverted on this line and tracks have been found much improved. There is a persistent demand from the general public to run a fast train between Ujjain-Gunna-Bina, connecting Delhi. This will help quicker industrialisation of the backward district of Rajgarh, Gunna, Shajapur etc.

Recently it was announced that one "Shanchi Express" will run between Indore and Delhi. This will not cover the underdeveloped areas. There are already a dozen fast trains going through Bhopal to Delhi. On the contrary it will create further confusion at Bhopal which is already over-congested. Hence, running of a fast train on Gunna-Maksi line is the correct decision and will satisfy the general public. During the last one year "Action Committees" have been formed at Bioora, Shajapur, Maksi and Gunna, agitating for this demand. The delay in announcing the running of Sabarmati Express may lead to Satya-graha and agitations by early 1984 which should be avoided.

Even at Indore, the people are insisting on developing the Gunna-Maksi line. Any further postponement of this will result into frustration in the Madhya Bharat Area and may lead to agitational approach which can be avoided.

I, therefore, request the Railway Minister to direct the Railway Board to come to a quick decision.

(ix) CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF PERSONS IN CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla)
Under rule 377 I wish to make a reference to the following matter of urgent public importance :—

Cultural exchange programmes between our country and the rest of the world offer

innumerable advantages of sponsoring cultural programmes to and from India and we have certainly benefited from these programmes in the past and surely enough we must continue to maintain the interest in such activities. Teachers, artists, intellectuals and technocrats must have opportunities of going abroad so that their mental horizon widens and they become more useful citizens of India. There is, however, a problem in that we do not seem to have laid down any scientific criteria for selections. There is a growing sense of deprivation with numerous Indians that even when they qualify for participation in various programmes, they do not find themselves lucky as they do not possess 'access' to higher echelons of authority. There is also imbalance in so far as sharing of such opportunities is concerned. There is a widespread feeling that certain States and Union Territories, possibly U. P. and Delhi, are getting a large share of the available opportunities. The Jammu and Kashmir State must find its place in the scale of preferences. The Union Minister of Education must come out with statistics to show Statewise distribution of opportunities offered to bonafide citizens of India.

13.40 hrs.

MOTION UNDER RULE 388—CONTD.

SUSPENSION OF FIRST PROVISIO
TO RULE 74

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up further consideration of the motion under rule 388 moved by Shri Janardhana Poojary on the 20th December, 1983.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while speaking, Prof. Madhu Dandavate has cited certain portions from the Recommendations of the Era Sezhiyan Committee, the Estimates Committee and also some portion of the speech of late Shri CD Deshmukh, the then Finance Minister, at the time of passing of the Bill at that time. I would only like to say, in

the first instance, that Prof. Madhu Dandavate has quoted only portions which were convenient to him, and he has left those portion which were inconvenient to him.

I would like to quote here from the speech of Shri CD Deshmukh he gave at the time of passing of the Bill in 1956. He stated :

"If we find that one autonomous corporation does not work satisfactorily, then it would be open to us to change over from it to a number of autonomous corporations. This process would be easier than the reverse process."

What he meant at that time was that if five corporations were set up at that time, it would be difficult to amalgamate them into one corporation later on, but if after some years it was found that the corporation has to be split up into various independent bodies, that would be easier to be done. That is what he meant at that time. Thus, the contention of Prof. Madhu Dandavate stands repelled by this.

Further, Prof. Madhu Dandavate did not refer to those recommendations of the Committee on Public Undertakings which did not suit his arguments. I would like to quote from the report of the Committee on Public Undertakings. the relevant portion :

"Tardy growth of business and deterioration of service to policyholders are ascribable to the present size and centralised organisation of the Corporation...Its present zones must be constituted into completely independent corporations.

I would also like to submit that the rural business of LIC was five per cent in 1956 and thirty-two per cent in 1982-83. Therefore, the charge that the rural insurance business has not developed is not correct.

That is what he has stated. As on 1980, as stated earlier, there were about 90 districts which were untouched by the LIC

Corporation Business. Now, as on 31st March, 1983, 67 districts were not covered by the LIC offices. Independent corporations alone, with determined area for intensified development, will facilitate tapping of full potential. Now there are areas even in Taluk headquarters which are not having today the branch offices. Even in my constituency, there is none. That may be the position in your constituency also.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Jadavpur) : That is the punishment.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
After all, we have to intensify the development of the business. Now, this message should reach the rural areas and the benefit of the LIC should go to the rural areas. That way the business should be developed. As in the case of the Banking sector, prior to 1969, there were about 8,321 branches as on July 1969 Now, we have got 42,027 branches. As a result there are now more promotional opportunities to the employees. For example if their is going to be one branch at block-level, that means at least one Branch one Manager should be there. To that extent more promotional opportunities will be there. Not only that more employment opportunities will be created. Besides, business will be going to the rural areas and in this way expansion will take place. Of course, there is substance in their argument that there should be decentralisation, not centralisation. They are now quoting the example of the State Bank of India, which is having more than six thousand branches. Similarly, I can also say that there are twenty nationalised banks. There are State Banks and its subsidiaries. That means there also the banking sector has been decentralised. There was one proposal coming from a different quarter that all these nationalised banks should be centralised. Why should there be Vijaya Bank, why should there be the State Bank of India, why should there be Canara Bank, the Central Bank of India, the Union Bank of India ? All these banks should be merged. That proposal was also coming from a different quarter. But we said there should be decentralisation. Now, a beginning has been made here also. Some of the employees who did not know all this approached me and I explained this to them that it is in their interest, they agreed and went away. Here also, at least

the Hon. Members like Shri Somnath Chatterjee, who is an eminent lawyer should be at one with me that the interests and benefits will accrue to them because of this measure. Therefore, I say the Hon. Members from the other side should have supported this provision. Still I don't understand why it is being opposed by them.

Sir, he has mentioned about the recommendations of the Era Sezhiyan Committee. There also let us see what Mr. Era Sezhiyan has stated. According to the committee's recommendations interests of policy holders have to be safeguarded. Policyholders should have choice between serving the organisation and availability of schemes for weaker sections. Separate corporations will promote consumer consciousness, which operational infra-structure and personnel and development policies. Now, Sir, we have to safeguard the interests of the policy holders. Ever some Editorials have appeared in newspapers and some criticism have appeared in the papers on the performance of the LIC. Some of the Hon. Members have also criticised the performance of the LIC employees. I myself have paid surprise visits and have come to know that its efficiency is going down. Therefore, I say, when the corporation is divided into Five Corporations, the process of supervision and the system of monitoring will be intensified and the service to the policy holders will be improved.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate has made one more point. He said interests of employees are not protected and collective bargaining is being taken away. In this connection I would say that intensive development of business by each corporation will generate more business, consequently more employment opportunities. Smaller corporations will promote more harmonious employer-employee relations, because they will be coming closer to the Management.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :
Then why have four, Statewise it should be done.

SHRI JANARDHANA FOOJARY :
If the proposal is coming from the Hon.

Member, then such a proposal will be in conformity with this principle.

Therefore, I say when there are more corporations, there will be an intimate contact between the Management and its employees. Then it cannot be said tomorrow that the person who is working in Gauhati has to go to Bombay. Here there will be five corporations at five places having one apex body. Therefore, my submission is that by this way interests of the employees will be better served.

Now, I come to another point that has been raised. The Bill does not provide for healthy competition between the five corporations as mentioned in the Finance Minister's speech of 28th February, 1981.

Apart from intensive development of business in the areas of lead responsibility, each corporation can step out to establish business in other area also. That option is there. They can go to an area which is not within their jurisdiction even. There also they can expand their business. Therefore, these employees who are working in those branches will not be shifted. They will be there only.

Further, there will be a separate actuarial valuation for each corporation.

Each corporation will have freedom to evolve new life insurance scheme for development of the business.

Each corporation will report direct to the Government.

Future of each corporation will depend on the efficient service to policy-holders.

This is my reply to Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do suspend the first proviso to Rule 74 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in its application to the motion for

reference of the Bill to provide, with a view to the more effective realisation of the objectives of nationalisation of life insurance business, for the dissolution of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and for the establishment of a number of corporations for the more efficient carrying on of the said business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, a Joint Committee of the Houses."

The Motion was adopted.

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATIONS BILL

MOTION TO REFER TO JOINT COMMITTEE

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-
DHANA POOJARY) ON BEHALF OF
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, I
beg to Move :

"That the Bill to provide with a view to the more effective realisation of the objectives of nationalisation of life insurance business, for the dissolution of the Life Insurance Corporation of India and for the more establishment of a number of corporations for the more efficient carrying of the said business and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 members, 20 from this House, namely :—

- (1) Shri Satish Agarwal
- (2) Shri M. Arunachalam
- (3) Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria
- (4) Shri Mool Chand Daga
- (5) Shri Nurul Islam
- (6) Shri Bh'ku Ram Jain
- (7) Shri Kamal Nath Jha

- (8) Shri Ghayoor Ali Khan
- (9) Shri Sunil Maitra
- (10) Shri K. Mallara
- (11) Shri Braja Mohan Mohanty
- (12) Shri Shri Kusuma Krishna Murthy
- 13 Shri Ram Pyare Panika
- (14) Shri Janardhan Poojary
- (15) Shri Ram Lal Rahi
- (16) Shri K. A. Rajan
- (17) Shri Ratansinh Rajda
- (18) Shri M. S. K. Sathiyendran
- (19) Shri Natvarsinh Solanki
- (20) Shrimati Sukhbuns Kaur

and 10 from Rajya Sabha :

"that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee ;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of Budget (1984) Session of Lok Sabha ;

that the other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the speaker may make ; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur) : After listening to the reply of the hon. Minister, now I am more convinced that it has fallen his fate to pilot a useless and retrograde measure. I am sure that in his own heart of hearts,