

able to touch even the fringe of the needs of the agriculturists.

So, my first submission is that the formation of this Corporation should not be limited to the States mentioned in this Bill but such Corporations should be formed in all the States of India because the credit needs of agriculturists have not been fully met in any of the States.

Then, this Bill seeks to extend advances and loans not only to agriculturists but also to those who are engaged in allied operations. Agricultural operation has been defined to include animal husbandry, dairy farming, pisciculture poultry farming etc. But when we examine the operative clause of this Bill, that is, clause 19(a), we find that the Corporation that will be formed, after the passing of this Bill, will be able to advance loans and advances only to agriculturists and agricultural co-operative societies, because therein it has been stated that the business of the Corporation shall be—

“the granting of loans and advances, repayable within a period, not exceeding five years, to agriculturists, agricultural marketing societies, agricultural processing societies, Central Co-operative Banks, co-operative farming societies or primary agricultural credit societies for agricultural operations”.

The term “agriculturist” has not been defined in this Bill. So even if the Corporation wants to help those who are engaged in dairy farming, poultry farming or other allied operations, it may not be able to help those persons and co-operative societies. In several States there are different sets of fisheries co-operative societies, dairy co-operative societies or poultry farming societies. They do not come under agriculture co-operative societies, such societies will not be able to get loans or advances from this Corporation.

Then, this Bill envisages to give loans and advances only up to a maximum period of five years. I would suggest that this should be extended at least up to ten years. Apart from the reason advanced by Professor Ranga, I would like to give another reason. There are certain types of crops which begin to yield only after five years; for instance, coconut, rubber

and such other crops. If this five years' term is retained, agriculturists will be forced to repay the loan which they have received from the Corporation within five years, that is, before their crops begin to yield. This will be very harsh on the agriculturists.

Then, nowhere in this Bill the rate of interest has been fixed. It may be fixed either under the rules or later by the Reserve Bank of India and the Corporation concerned. Why the co-operative credit system in India has not progressed as it deserved should be gone into thoroughly. The main reason is the rigid rules and the procedural hurdle that are being imposed on co-operative societies and the loan applicants. The loan that is issued by the Reserve Bank at the rate of 2 per cent or 2½ per cent reaches the farmer at 8 or 10 per cent interest.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He may resume his speech on the next occasion.

15.00 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Fortieth Report

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : I beg to move :

“That this House do agree with the Fortieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th November, 1968.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do agree with the Fortieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 27th November, 1968.”

The motion was adopted.