

A Pleader by Profession, Shri Sharma served as President of Bharat Socuts Association of Meerut District for three years and President, Rashtrabhasha Vidyapeeth for two years.

Shri Sharma passed away at Meerut on 29 September, 1987 at the age of 82 years.

Shri Ajit Singh was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Bhatinda constituency of Punjab. Earlier, he had been a Member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Ajit Singh worked for the uplift and rehabilitation of weaker sections of the society. A valiant soldier, he served in the Indian Army for about six years.

Shri Ajit Singh passed away at Bhatinda on 8 October, 1987 at the age of 62 years.

Shri Atamdas was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Morena constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Interim Legislature of the then Gwalior State during 1948-49 and of the then Bharat Legislative Assembly in 1951.

Shri Atamdas took active part in the freedom movement and suffered imprisonment. An agriculturist by profession, he was associated with several social organisations and took keen interest in the uplift of weaker sections of the society.

Shri Atamdas passed away at Gwalior on 10 October, 1987 at the age of 75 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends, and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

The Members Stood in Silence for a Short While

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Bank Loans During 1986-87

*1. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons all over the country to whom loan amount of not more than Rs. 10, 000 (Rupees Ten Thousand only) was given by banks during the financial year 1986-87 ;

(b) the total amount of loan given to them ; and

(c) the total amount of credit given by banks during the year 1986-87 to both Private and Public Sector Undertakings excluding the amount covered under item (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the present data reporting system does not provide information on loans below a certain amount all over the country. The outstanding advances of Public Sector Banks under priority sector and to weaker sections as at the end of March 1986 and March 1987 were as under :

	(Amount in Rs. crores (Accounts in lakhs))			
	Priority	Sector	Weaker	Sections
	March 1986	March 1987	March 1986	March 1987
Accounts	244.33	273.05	183.77	205.72
Amount	20852.75	24551.75	5077.94	6118.78
Average amount per borrowal account	8535	8992	2774	2974

(c) Advances by Public Sector Banks excluding Priority Sector Advances increased from Rs. 28775 crores as at the end of March 1986 to Rs. 31305 crores as at the end of March 1987.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I fully appreciate the earnest efforts of the hon. Minister and congratulate him the way in which he has been trying to give a loan to the weaker sections of the society and in building up their future, I am very unhappy about the first part of the answer and the casual way in which the Reserve Bank of India have furnished the information. It is very unfair that though they are able to give huge figures, given to the Public Sector Undertakings, they are unable to give the details of the loans given to the weaker sections. The reason is very clear.

Only a very negligible amount is given to the weaker sections in spite of the earnest efforts being made by the hon. Minister. I may draw his attention to the answer given to part (c) of the Question :

“Advances by Public Sector Banks excluding Priority Sector Advances increased from Rs. 28775 crores as at the end of March 1986 to Rs. 31305 crores as at the end of March, 1987.”

I have no complaint about this ; let that grow. I have worked in governments department for some years and I know the method of collecting these simple facts. A mere

circular to every branch of the Bank would be sufficient to gather the facts. I come from Trivandrum. There is a fish market there. Lorry-loads of fish come to the market. The poor fisherwomen who come there to buy fish have to pay an interest of Rs. 10 for every Rs. 100 for every day. That comes to 3,600 per cent. In order to help those people belonging to the weaker sections, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, out of the deposits received from the rural areas which constitute about 70 per cent of the total deposits, at least half of the deposits will be earmarked for paying loans to the weaker sections in case there are sufficient number of applications which fulfil the norms and conditions ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I share the concern of the hon. Member for the weaker sections. It is a conscious decision and a commitment given to the nation that we are going to meet the requirements of the weaker sections fully. Here as on June 1987 we have given Rs. 6,368 crores to the weaker sections. The target was ten per cent, and as against the target of ten per cent, we have already given about eleven per cent. It is true, as the hon. Member has stated, that the weaker sections are compelled to pay a higher rate of interest in the private borrowing market. It is because of that that we have been giving assistance to the weaker sections. For the benefit of the hon. Member I may also say that we have given instructions to our Department to increase the target for the weaker sections.

SHRI A. CHARLES : I am happy that a favourable answer has been given by the hon. Minister, and I am sure the weaker sections in the whole country will remember him for this. But, even here, there are certain loopholes, and certain frauds are being committed by the middlemen. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any possibility of constituting some cell with representatives of the banks, officials and non-officials to monitor the whole programme, to see whether the banks are giving loans in all eligible cases. In the Estimates Committee instances have come to our notice that even in very genuine cases, loans are not given. Therefore, I want to know whether these loans are given in all eligible cases and whether a monitoring system will be established to monitor this.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the IRDP is concerned, already there is a monitoring body; there, the District Collector is the convener and non-officials are also there. They are monitoring at that level even at the Block level also there are monitoring agencies. When the Estimates Committee makes recommendations, if they are in the interest of the weaker sections, definitely we will implement the recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What about the question of 'middlemen' that he raised?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : May I know whether it is a fact that Government decided to organize a loan mela in Tripura despite the fact that the Chief Minister of Tripura had objected to holding such a loan mela just on the eve of elections? I want to know whether it is also a fact that the management of United Bank of India had lots of new application forms secretly printed in Calcutta? These forms are not approved by the Reserve Bank of India. Out of these, 1,20,000 forms were handed over to the Congress (I) leader to be distributed among their trusted people of Tripura.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It does not relate to loan mela. If you are

asking me to answer it, I am prepared to answer it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is related to the distribution of loans. Loan Mela is held to distribute loans.

MR. SPEAKER : A separate discussion is coming on this and you can raise this point at that time.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : My question would be different. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whenever any nationalised bank organises schemes to distribute loans for weaker sections and if the concerned State Government comes in the way and incites violence in that area, what action is he going to take?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It is the same thing.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : I am not asking about loan melas. I am asking about inciting of violence by State Government when loans are being distributed.

MR. SPEAKER : How is it concerned with the subject?

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated just now that in case of any difficulty in advancing loans to the weaker sections, steps are taken to remove it. Has the hon. Minister received reports to the effect that some people get loans in the name of the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society? Thus weaker sections are not actually getting loans because they have to make several rounds of the banks and they are so tired that they throw away the papers in sheer frustration. May I know the action proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy this situation?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We have been receiving some reports from the State also. The programmes for weaker

sections, namely, IRDP and also educated unemployment Scheme, are implemented by the State Governments. We have been receiving complaints saying that they are not giving to the right people, the deserving people, and that some undeserving people are also getting it.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is that some people get bogus loans in the name of others.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am coming to that, Sir. The implementation is done by the State Government. They identify the persons belonging to the weaker sections under IRDP. Even for educated unemployed also, the State Governments identify the beneficiary. It is for the State Government to correctly identify and then forward those applications to the banks. If the Hon. Member has got any grievance in his State, he can write to the State Chief Minister saying that it has to be properly identified. So far as banks are concerned, whenever there is some deficiency, I myself monitor it. I act on the letters of the Hon. Members. I also act when there are complaints given by the citizens and we take proper action.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : There are instances that files of loans particularly within the limit of Rs. 10,000 are not disposed of by the banks strictly and quickly. There are specific cases where the banks are taking more than one year time.

May I know from the hon. Minister that these poor persons are forced to make rounds dozens of times and they are wasting energy and labour what steps is he going to take to dispose of these files of loans particularly belonging to the poorer sections?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, we have crossed the target of 10 per cent and reached the target of 11 per cent. About Rs. 6368 crores have gone from the banking sector to the weaker sections. That itself shows that the programmes are being implemented. But that does not mean there is no scope for improvement. We are monitoring it. We have even advised the banks to hold the credit camps twice in a month

outside the bank premises to expedite and to see that it goes to the weaker sections.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the report that had appeared in the Economic Times in whom it was mentioned one year back that on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in Bangalore about one lakh of forms were distributed on the occasion of two loan melas and on those forms which were secured from the sympathisers and supporters of Congress (I) a certain seal was put in the corner and they were given priority while clearing the loans? The hon. Minister had agreed to look into the matter and give the necessary reply. Still the reply has not come.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am prepared to answer provided the Chair allows.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir I request you to allow him to reply.

MR. SPEAKERS : Are you prepared to reply?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am prepared to reply even to Shri Basudeb Acharia.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take it up later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he has agreed to reply. I plead on his behalf to take it up.

MR. SPEAKER : He is prepared to reply. You are prepared to listen. But I am not prepared to allow it. We will take it up later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, it is a great injustice to the Minister.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : In view of the fact that there is a serious drought situation prevailing in the country and more particularly in the State of Rajasthan and Gujarat may I know from the hon. Minister whether any instructions have been given to the banks to help the

needy for fodder, fertilisers, seeds and irrigation facilities? If so, what is the result?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
On 12th September, 1987 the hon. Finance Minister convened the meeting of the Chief Executives particularly to see how the drought affected people are helped, On 15th September, 1987 the Reserve Bank of India had issued guidelines and we are meeting the requirements of the needy particularly of the ones referred to by the hon. Minister. We have also directed the Chief Executives and the Chairmen to go to the drought affected people to see that their requirements are met fully.

Import of Cotton and Man-made Fibre

*2. †**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:**

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to import 10 lakh bales of cotton and substantial quantity of man-made fibre during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of cotton and man-made fibre already imported proposed to be imported in near future and the financial implications thereof;

(d) whether some cotton growers' Associations have urged Government not to import cotton; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government do not propose to import cotton at present.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : While it is happy to note that the

Government has positively responded to the representations of the Cotton Growers' Associations and Federations all over the country regarding agitated note of the request of the Cotton Mills Federation requesting the Government to allow import of 10 lakh bales of cotton and 1.2 lakh tonnes of man-made fibre yet now the Minister has told that the Government has not taken a decision so far.

We are very happy to know that. At the same time, I would like to know categorically from the Hon'ble Minister whether it is not a fact that a public notice was issued on 9th October 1987 wherein the Government had announced input-output norms for import of raw cotton against export of yarn. Against export of 1 kg of corded yarn of 40 counts and below, the exporter is permitted to import 1.5 kg of raw cotton. Similarly in respect of combed yarn of 43 counts and below import of 1.33 kg and for 1 kg of combed yarn of 40 counts and above, import of 1.39 kg raw cotton is allowed. Is this not in contradiction to part (a) of the answer given by the Government? Indirectly you are permitting the import of raw cotton into this country. The latest figures say that our cotton production this year will not be less than that of the previous year. In fact, it may be little higher.

So, I would like to know categorically from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government would reconsider and withdraw this public notice issued some time back.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I have actually answered parts (a), (b) & (c) of the question. The question was:

"Whether Government have taken a decision to import 10 lakh bales of cotton and substantial quantity of man-made fibre during the current year;"

The answer is: "No, Sir." We have also said categorically that the Government do not propose to import cotton at present.

It is true that a facility had been given to cotton yarn exporters under the import-export policy of the Government for a replenishment licence for the cotton yarn exported by them. This is because the Govern-