

श्री डॉ० एल० बेंठ : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने मुजफ्फरपुर और पटना की सेवा को बिदड़ा कर लिया है। अभी पूर्णिया को आप उसी से जोड़ना चाहते हैं या उसके लिए अलग से सेवा शुरू करेंगे ?

श्री अनन्त प्रसाद शर्मा : पूर्णिया को पटना से जोड़ें मुजफ्फरपुर से नहीं है।

Continuation of PIGMY Deposits

Accounts Scheme in Karnataka

*474. SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that many nationalised banks in Bangalore city, Tumkur and other places in Karnataka are not opening new Pigmy (small daily deposit) accounts;

(b) is it a fact that a large number of people are making their livelihood by the Commission they get for collecting money for those deposits; and

(c) whether Government propose to issue necessary instructions to banks to continue the Pigmy deposits (small deposits) scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) Information is being collected from the banks and will be laid on the table of the House.

(b) According to the banks most of the daily deposit collectors are not solely dependent on the commission earned from the banks; and even where the banks have stopped opening of new accounts the deposit collectors continue to service the existing accounts and earn commission.

(c) The Government have already advised the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) to examine the feasibility of continuing the scheme.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Sir, the pigmy deposits or the small daily deposit scheme is to collect daily or weekly one rupee or ten rupees from petty traders, small artisans, tailors or raily wage earners, etc. This scheme helps the above categories of people to save a part of their earnings by subscribing to this scheme. These categories of people normally do not open a bank account but these small deposits help them to save. Secondly, in these hard days this scheme helps the poor and unemployed people to earn their livelihood through the commission. This has been very helpful particularly in Tumkur and Bangalore where there are 4,000 deposit collectors.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I would like to clarify one point that in the text of the reply given by my colleague it has been said we have already instructed the RBI to examine the feasibility of continuing the scheme. The idea is not to scrap the scheme but at the same time we will have to take into account what will be the cost of collection of these deposits and there we are getting contradictory information—sometimes it is said that the cost of collection is high and sometimes it is said that it is not so. We are issuing instructions to the RBI to make a study about the actual cost of collection and if we find we can make it more economically operative I will have no hesitation to continue it.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: Will the hon. Minister agree that this pigmy deposit scheme indirectly help the 20-point programme? Is it not a fact that the nationalised banks are more interested in getting insfitution deposits for window dressing of their balance sheet and as the pigmy deposits do not give more profit and involves lot of work they do not wish to encourage these deposits. Will the hon. inister give an assurance that strict instructions will be given to the

banks to continue the old pigmy accounts as well as start new pigmy accounts?

SHRI PRANAB MUKERJEE: Sir, I have already said that instructions have been issued to the RBI that this scheme should be continued. In addition to that I have asked them to look into it as to how to make it more economically viable and they will make a study as to what would be the cost of collection of these deposits.

SHRI K. LAKAPPA: Sir, there are two types of deposits and also collection of deposits through this pigmy system which is prevailing in the entire Karnataka State for a long time. It has also been reported—I would like to know whether it is a fact or not—that these collectors of pigmy deposits have not kept proper account. The hon. Minister has said that the Reserve Bank is finding out ways and will issue guidelines. I would like to know whether they will issue any guidelines for this category of people who collect these deposits so that their antecedents are screened. The Deposit Scheme should also attract the depositors from organisations, institutions etc. and the money should be deposited only in the nationalised banks. May I know whether these guidelines are being pursued by the Reserve Bank of India?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sometimes we get complaints that the money collected has not been deposited. Those types of complaints have come from depositors. But in regard to 'Screening' of persons, what type of persons should be appointed as agents etc., I have asked the Reserve Bank to examine the whole aspect of the cost of collection through this scheme. If we find that cost of collections is not remunerative there is no point in insisting on it. Therefore I have asked the RBI to examine it and let us get their views and thereafter we will be able to take a decision about it.

India-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry

***475. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry had sponsored a delegation to explore possibilities of selling Indian products to China;

(b) whether any agreement was reached for collaboration to manufacture machinery and equipment; and

(c) whether any arrangement was made to sell the products of both the countries within themselves; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) A three-member delegation of India China Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited China on the invitation of the China Council for Promotion of International Trade.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: In view of the visit of the Delegation that visited China in early June and in view of the deliberations with that Council of the Chinese people, in view of the decision that was taken that 'permanent exhibitions' of Indian products could be established both here as well as in China, to encourage trade, may I know what steps the Government of India has taken for the establishment of those exhibitions?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The delegation was not sponsored by the Government of India. It is a small society of 26 members who are doing these on their own. They have gone there at the invitation of the Peoples Chamber of China.

SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN: I want to know about the steps taken by the Government of India pursuant to those